



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

October 28, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Lakeville City Hall, Marion Conference Room

1. Call to order, moment of silence and flag pledge

Mayor Hellier called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Members Present: Mayor Hellier, Council Members Bermel, Lee, Volk, Wolter.

Staff Present: Justin Miller, City Administrator; Julie Stahl, Finance Director; Director; Allyn Kuennen, Assistant City Administrator; Taylor Snider, Assistant to the City Administrator; Tina Goodroad, Community Development Director. Zach Jorgensen, City Forester; and Grace Benson, Forestry Tech.

2. Citizen Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Discussion Items

a. Discuss current and potential amendments to Tree Preservation Ordinance

Tina Goodroad presented. As Lakeville develops, it will turn from agriculture to more tree-dense. The preservation plan falls in line with Envision Lakeville. The current ordinance does not have any teeth regarding tree preservation. The current plan is developer-driven and does not provide any requirements for tree protection, replacement, or replanting guidance. End goal is tree preservation and proper tree replacement. Would also address how it is going to be enforced.

Bermel, Wolter, and Lee are supportive of this plan and would also like to see more focus on older growth preservation. Volk wants to find a balance that wouldn't discourage development. Nervous about rules without any flexibility to the rules. Hellier would like to start tighter than 40 and 70 and see where the plan commission goes from there.

City Forester, Zach, gave a short presentation about recent developments in Lakeville in regard to how they handled Tree Preservation.

b. Discuss Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) partnership with Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA)

Tina Goodroad, Community Development Director, gave the presentation. She explained to the council that cities must identify how to spend money in three years and the spending must be made in four years. According to the report, the average loan is

\$32k. CDA is asking for resolution of support by early December. Dakota County is looking for a three-year commitment from Lakeville and neighboring cities in Dakota County. The Community Development Block Grant is not a qualifying use of sales tax funds.

Council made note that they are hesitant about tying money up on this program and potentially missing out on a better opportunity in the future. They have asked to work with the County and figure out how Lakeville would be able to not be completely locked-up in these two funds on the chance that a better partnership project may come along down the road.

c. 2025 Fee Schedule

Julie Stahl, Finance Director, presented the 2025 fee schedule to the council. The following fees were mentioned as being changed from the previous fee schedule. The 2025 Official Fee Schedule will be incorporated into the City Code with an effective date of January 1, 2025, unless noted otherwise.

Council would like to keep the irrigation fee the same for commercial buildings but lower it to the level listed in the 2025 fee schedule for residential buildings. Council also had questions regarding the fees for amenities at Antlers Park and whether that is common practice. Council also had questions regarding sanitary sewer rates being set for the lowest use quarter.

d. 2025 Proposed Utility Fund Budgets & Rate Projections

e. 2025 Proposed Liquor Fund Budget

Finance Director Julie Stahl gives the presentation of the 2025 proposed Liquor fund budget. The budget has been reviewed and approved by liquor committee. Some of the notable highlights include that across all locations, sales have decreased 1.2%. There will be \$1.74 Million in transfers and that there will be an increase of the equipment fund from \$500,000 to \$900,000.

Council asked about the future of the Heritage location. Stahl answered that they are in the process of finalizing the market study and this study will provide the recommendations on what to do moving forward. The results will come in late November and they are anticipating that the study will say that it is in the right location with not enough square footage.

4. Items for Future Discussion

Council would like to discuss the Trash policy. there have been complaints from residents regarding the amount of trucks in their neighborhoods. This is something they may discuss at the retreat. Council is also interested in persuing social district ordinances next year.

5. Committee/ City Administrator Updates

Liquor Committee met as per Julie's presentation. Personnel Committee met and direct reports submitted Justin's survey. Justin will also be submitting a self-evaluation.

Safer Grant has created conversation for the Relief association. Relief is looking at vesting schedules and how to reinvest. The current account is over-funded and with less and less paid on-call staff, it will continue to be over-funded over time.

Regional Council Mayors meeting discussed housing at the legislature. This will continue to be an issue. Strategy among mayors will be determined after the election.

Arenas numbers look good and are anticipating next year's numbers will look good because Bloomington is closing three arenas to renovate next year. Lakeville should see a bump but then fall back to regular numbers. They will also be leasing a snowblower and snow removal equipment.

Voting is heavy at City Hall. Voting hours will be changing for this week. There have been over 12,000 in-person voters so far.

6. Adjourn

Motion was made by Volk, seconded by Bermel, to adjourn. Voice vote was taken on the motion. Ayes - Hellier, Bermel, Volk, Lee, Wolter. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Miller, Assistant to the City Administrator Luke M. Heller, Mayor