

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1670 STIEGER LAKE LANE
VICTORIA, MINNESOTA**

WORKSHOP MINUTES

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CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Funk called the Workshop to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Mayor Tom Funk; Council members Judy Black, Tom Gregory, Deb McMillan, and Tom Vogt.

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Dana Hardie, City Clerk Cindy Patnode, Park & Recreation/Public Works Director Ann Mahnke, Finance Manager Trish Pollock and City Attorney Bob Vose.

There were no audience members in attendance.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

Yard Waste Discussion

Park & Recreation/Public Works Director Ann Mahnke gave the background of the history of yard waste since the Council eliminated this city's composting site for 2019. Council direction was to reconsider that decision and directed staff to provide options for the possibility of including in 2020 and even in 2019 budgets.

Ms. Mahnke provided the Council with four options; the impact on the levy; noted no staff labor has been calculated; and discussion points to consider.

Option 1 – One weekend event or a week-long event held in spring and fall, increase of levy up to 1.2%.

The pros and cons were noted for having it at the old public works site vs. the Park and Rec site.

Option 2 - Year-round site located at the Public Works building (located on Bavaria Road), increase of levy 1.2%.

This option would require an initial cost to upgrade the grounds; there is a concern with the flow traffic into the site since it is an active public works area that has large machinery; neighbors may be concerned with increased traffic and their input should be heard prior to a decision; how to manage use by city residents only; County should be contacted to inquire if this increase of use would require the need for turn lanes.

Option 3 – Haulers – Currently provided as a service option to their trash hauling, no increase in levy.

Option 4 – No compost service provided by city, no increase in levy

Council input on moving forward with Options 1 & 2

- Organize volunteers to monitor and record the statistics of use of the site (possible camera also) and discussed ways to recruit volunteers or possibly hire the monitoring out.
- Discussed the pros and cons of the Park and Rec site along with both public works sites
- Discussion on the length of time for the event(s)
- Neighboring cities provide some type of yard waste disposal
- Requiring haulers to do this and controlling it with their licensing
- Possibility of charging a fee to offset costs

Council input for opposition to Options 1 & 2

- Contractors and non-residents use of the site
- This item has been rejected twice by previous Council for valid reasons and what precedence does it set.
- Private sector provides this type of service for a fee and this is not a good use of tax payers money.
- This item is not in the Strategic Plan.
- Arboretum site had a huge outcry from Victoria residents which would have been a more feasible location and an easy drive for Victoria residents.
- The data being collected should be done with a well thought out policy in mind that would support this as a budget item in the future.

Staff noted that new developments don't need this service and data will be skewed to the older developments since newer townhomes and Homeowner's Associations normally pay for this service.

Full consensus was not made on the following items, but most of the Council agreed that:

1. No fees will be collected
2. Location for the yard waste will be at the old Public Works Building (off Stieger Lake Lane)
3. Site will be open the last three weekends (Saturday/Sunday) of October 2019
4. Hours will be 9 – 5 depending on volunteer schedules
5. Volunteers will need to sign a Volunteer Form and have a methodology for gathering data.

It was decided that Council member Black will work with City Manager Hardie and Park & Recreation/Public Works Director Mahnke on establishing volunteers and a process for gathering data. It was also noted that if no volunteers were able to monitor the events, there would not be an event.

Updates to City Policies – Consensus was made to extend the Workshop to accommodate this section

City Manager Hardie presented ten Council Policies to revise or add to the existing policies for accountability and transparency as noted in the adopted Strategic Plan.

The goal will be to have staff review annually and present any changes to Council.

Council consensus was to direct staff to make the changes as submitted for Policies 1-10 with Items 1 & 8 having changes as noted:

1. Professional Services Contracts Policy- revise to include for a three-year contract with two-one-year extensions possible
2. Appointed Commission, Committee and Board Member Attendance Policy
3. Fair Housing Policy
4. Special Assessment Policies and Procedures for Public Improvements
5. Compensation Philosophy Policy
6. Elected Official Out-of-State Travel Policy
7. Fund Balance Policy
8. Revenue Stabilization Fund Policy – provide options for Council consideration if the threshold is met and there are excess funds.
9. City Investment Policy
10. City Investment Policy Acknowledgement Policy

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by McMillan, seconded by Vogt, to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Cindy Patnode, City Clerk



Thomas C. Funk, Mayor