

MOUND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 21, 2015

The City Council of the City of Mound, Hennepin County, Minnesota, met in a special session on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers of the Centennial Building.

Members Present: Mayor Mark Wegscheid, Council Members Ray Salazar, Kelli Gillispie, Heidi Gesch, and Jennifer Peterson

Members Absent: None.

Others present: Public Works Director Eric Hoversten, Director of Finance and Administrative Services Catherine Pausche, Fire Chief Greg Pederson, Director of Public Works Eric Hoversten, Public Works Superintendent Ray Hanson, Director of Community Development Sarah Smith, Liquor Store Manager John Colotti, Field Officer Stewart Simon, Building Official Scott Qualle, Attorney Melissa Manderschied, Katie Morford, Len Princivalli, Joe Bruns

1. Open Meeting

Mayor Wegscheid called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Approve agenda, with any amendments

MOTION by Salazar, seconded by Peterson, to approve the agenda. All voted in favor, motion carried.

3. Fire Department - Greg Pederson, Fire Chief

A. Strategic Priorities – Personnel, Apparatus, Equipment, Facilities

B. Long Term Financial Plan, including Capital Improvement Plan -10 Year

C. Direction to staff on proposed CIP, including Ladder Truck and other apparatus purchases

Discussion centered around the purchase of a new ladder truck that will also serve as a pumper. Chief Pederson showed the differences between the proposed ladder truck and the current 1981 model. Questions were asked including what would happen if the City did not purchase it, what impact it would have on the ISO rating, the benefits of a combined use vs. two separate vehicles, and types of situations it could be used in. Upon receiving the information, the Mayor concluded that he is in support of the purchase of a new ladder truck for the many reasons noted, including that it is a vital piece of equipment with enhanced safety features, efficiencies from replacing two apparatus with one, the enhanced flexibility, good financing climate, and the fact that the other cities are in support. Staff indicated a resolution authorizing the purchase would be placed on the next agenda.

4. Review and Discussion of Suggested Changes to the City Code and Miscellaneous Policies

A. Chapter 30 - Burn Permits

Chief Pederson noted that there is not a high demand for burn permits so Staff is recommending eliminating them because of the tendency to result in neighbor disputes over poor air quality. Pederson noted Spring Park and Minnetonka Beach eliminated them as well. Discussion ensued and Staff was directed to proceed but to change the timeframe that recreational fires are allowed to between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m.

B. ADMIN-003 - Policy on Vacation of Public Lands Leading to Public Water

Wegscheid noted that this policy is a positive step because it will help streamline the process, gives future City Councils a point of reference for what issues the Council was weighing in the 2015 actions on the subject, and may help deter requests. Staff was directed to place the policy on an agenda for approval.

C. Chapter 105 - Rental Registration Amendment

Discussion centered around this being a baby step as the Council does not wish to grow government or regulation. The pros and cons of a rental licensing program were discussed and Staff was directed to see what information may be obtained through the Hennepin County GIS database that may be sufficient for planning and zoning purposes as opposed to implementing a voluntary rental registration program.

D. Chapter 2 - Administration - Fines

Staff emphasized fines would apply to a small subset of non-compliant nuisance offenders after other efforts were exhausted. Staff noted that going to court is really not an option, but if a case went that far, this would show the court the City tried to provide due process. The Council said they support fines in concept, but directed Staff to further develop the language prior to bringing it forward for consideration.

E. Breweries/Brew Pubs/Tap Rooms & Chapter 6 Alcoholic Beverages

The Council said they support in concept and want to be proactive about changes in order to be ready for development, including allowing micro distilleries, but that further work is needed to ensure the zoning ordinance is consistent with the alcoholic beverage licensing. In addition, the Council directed Staff to make the alcoholic beverage licensing consistent with state law and eliminate any additional restrictions.

F. Chapter 42 - Nuisances

The Council supported the proposed changes on tailoring maintenance standards to the type of property and directed Staff to place on an agenda for approval.

G. Chapter 46 - Offences and Misc Provisions

The Council supported the proposed changes on limiting the use of drones on private property and directed Staff to place on an agenda for approval.

H. Chapter 70 - Traffic and Vehicles

The Council supported the proposed changes to limit the use of vehicles, depending on type, on public lands and directed Staff to place on an agenda for approval.

I. Chapter 2 - Administration - Residency Requirements

The Council supported the proposed changes on residency requirements for commissioners and directed Staff to place on an agenda for approval.

J. Chapter 18 - Cemeteries

The Council supported the proposed changes regarding cemetery administration and directed Staff to place on an agenda for approval.

K. Fees - Pet Licensing, Public Gathering Permits

The Council supported the proposed changes in concept, including eliminating pet licensing, and directed Staff to do more work on public gathering permit fees prior to bringing it forward for consideration. Wegscheid noted he does not like the concept of "reduced fees" and wondered if the Parks and Open Spaces Commission might have insights on the public gathering fee structure.

5. Liquor Store – John Colotti, Manager

A. Marketing proposals

Colotti summarized the two proposals for web design and hosting. Discussion ensued about changing competition, search engine optimization, blogging, use of templates for other purposes, and whether the domain is owned or hosted. The Council supported approval of a new website because it made good business sense and selection of Prime Advertising & Design as the vendor because of the content of the proposal and strong references and directed Staff to put it on an agenda for approval.

6. Public Works – Eric Hoversten, Public Works Dir & Ray Hanson, Public Works Supt

A. CIP and utility rates

B. Equipment replacement plan

C. Technology update - nuisance abatement/asset tracking/workflow - Mobile 311

Hoversten reviewed the materials presented in the packet and emphasized the Mobile 311 was a good first step to implementing automated asset tracking and workflow management.

Pausche discussed the changes to CIP from the prior year and recommended the street portion of utility infrastructure improvements be funded by the debt levy and not utility revenue funds because that would be more in line with the previous estimates and provide relief to the utility rates. Discussion ensued about the concept of tax rates being property value driven vs. user fees and the pros and cons of each. Salazar noted he likes the concept of user fees and Pausche noted that the utility rates and tax rates have to be balanced in order to remain attractive and competitive and that the City's utility rates are the highest in the area. Pausche also noted that general obligation bonds for the street portion mature in 15 years vs. 20 years for the utility portion and that the impact to the special levy could be managed over the next few years. Gesch said she thought this was the lesser of two evils and that she hears a lot of concerns over the high utility rates. Staff was directed to prepare the budget assuming the street portion of the utility improvements will be funded by the debt levy, which basically means the annual increases for the utility rates approved for 2015 - 2018 will remain at 8.5% for water, 9.5% for sewer, and 6.5% for storm.

7. Finance and Admin – Catherine Pausche, Finance Director/Clerk/Treasurer

A. Explanation of revenues, anticipated changes to preliminary budget

B. Supporting schedules discussion

- Major contracts and procurement
- conferences and training
- Equipment replacement plans
- Employee FTE assumptions

Pausche noted that all changes to the preliminary budget will be highlighted and documented but that she did not anticipate anything significant. Pausche also noted staff will continue to refine supporting schedules and long-term capital equipment replacement plans.

8. Adjourn

MOTION by Gesch, seconded by Salazar to adjourn at 9:45pm. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Mark Wegscheid

Attest: Catherine Pausche, Clerk