

City of West St, Paul
Open Council Work Session (OCWS)
March 14, 2016

1. Roll Call

Mayor Meisinger called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor David Meisinger and Councilmembers Pat Armon, John Bellows, Jenny Halverson, Ed Iago, Dave Napier and Dick Vitelli.

Others: City Manager Matt Fulton, Assistant City Manager and HR Director Sherrie Le, Finance Director Joan Carlson, Police Chief Manila Shaver, South Metro Fire Dept Chief Mike Pott, PW and Parks and Rec Director/City Engineer Ross Beckwith, Civil Engineer Darin Rezac, Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn, City Planner Ben Boike, City Attorney Korine Land and Recording Secretary Cindy Holzmer.

2. Approve OCWS Agenda

The open council work session agenda was approved as presented.

3. Regular The Regular Meeting Consent Agenda

Council approved the consent agenda items:

- Pulling Consent Item I off and adding it as New Business Item E (Accept 2015 Annual Report on Shared Volunteer Program).
- Adding Access to Livingston – Arby's, Office Buildings, Applebee's, 5-8 Club and Rack Shack to new Business.
- Adding Approval of City Hall Architect to the end of the agenda as Old Business Item D.

4. Agenda Items

4A. Discussion Regarding 1010 Dodd

In the Fall the Council had previously discussed possible uses for the site. Mayor Meisinger previously suggested a park area and green space. As an update, West St. Paul Royalty contacted Mayor Meisinger and the money they raise this year is going to be allocated to Officer Scott Patrick's widow and she can direct it where she wants to and she wants to direct it to the City of West St. Paul. Unsure of how much money is going to be donated to the City. Mrs. Patrick would like some sort of memorial where Officer Patrick was murdered.

Mayor Meisinger stated that we need to move forward at this point.

Comments:

- Clpn. Halverson is for putting a memorial there. She doesn't think it's the best place for a park and would like to see the Council maximize and purchase more properties behind there and develop that corner.
- Clpn. Bellows agrees for memorial but not for a park because too small.
- Mayor Meisinger stated there is not much green there and would like to see a welcome to WSP. He could live without a playground being there. Not in favor of redevelopment.
- Clpn. Bellows stated if it's a green space that doesn't preclude for redevelopment. The first thing we do is put up no parking signs on the property.
- Clpn. Halverson stated that parking is right across the street and is worried about kids running across the street.
- City Manager Matt Fulton submitted application for \$15,000 to the CDA. Have not received a response yet.
- Exec. Dir. Hartshorn said the concrete is being removed in April.
- Clpn. Vitelli is against memorial, green space.
- Mayor Meisinger asked to have City Staff explain how much is buildable space, on this piece of property.
- Clpn. Halverson agrees with not having a memorial because she doesn't want to be remembered for where she died. She suggested possibly naming a park after Officer Patrick.

Mayor Meisinger asked if the City should accept the offer for the funds to do some kind of memorial. Clpn. Bellows stated as long as Mrs. Patrick understands it may not be in the area where Officer Patrick was murdered.

Mayor Meisinger asked City Staff to get the Council the buildable information.

4B. Access to Livingston – Arby's, Office Buildings, Applebee's, 5-8 Club and Rack Shack

Looking at options to give access to businesses that don't have side or back entrances.

Arby's will be covering their own expenses for obtaining a permanent access and has submitted a couple of proposals.

- Clpn. Bellows asked if the City would lose any space in the parking lot.
 - The City would not lose any spaces.
- City Manager Matt Fulton stated the City anticipated that there would be a connection when the dome was built. This is a permanent easement across the lot and not a temporary.
- City Attorney Land said she was not sure that an easement would be needed because it is public parking lot and already a driveway.

The cost to temporarily fix Applebee's' access would be divided in thirds between Applebee's, the City and 5-8 Club. Applebee's would be willing if this was permanent. Lowe's is not for that, unless we cover the area. City Staff is asking to contract with TKDA and needs approval for a drawing for Lowe's (\$6,200). Exec. Dir. Hartshorn would negotiate as a third each.

- Clpn. Bellows would like to see this as a permanent easement.

- Mayor Meisinger asked if we could ask TKDA to draw as temporary and permanent.
- Clpn. Iago stated that at one time we were talking about drawing an exit behind Ideal Credit Union and Sonic.
 - Exec. Dir. Hartshorn stated that is still on the table.
- Clpn. Iago. asked what is Rack Shack going to do for a rear exit.
 - Exec. Dir. Hartshorn said that is part of this. They are going through the Guild and are okay with this on a temporary basis.

City Manager Fulton stated that we need to realign because the road is going to be closed in the next couple of weeks.

Would it ever be acceptable to do a gravel road if it's only temporary to try to save money?

Mayor Meisinger stated that we need a survey.

Clpn. Bellows stated that need to make sure Guild, Inc. will be satisfied with gravel.

Council is okay with getting engineering on board to make Lowe's happy. This will be on tonight's Council Meeting Agenda.

4C. Inflow/Infiltration Discussion with Met Council Representatives

Discussion was lead by Jeannine Clancy and Kyle Colvin from Met Council. Rich Kramer also appeared as he is the Met Council Representative for City and Kirby Van Note from SEH.

General discussion of Inflow/Infiltration (I/I). The Council has approved the City to hire an I/I liaison, whose job is to go into the home and assess to make sure the SEH is working as efficiently as possible. Letters have been sent to property owners to request they not excavate the road so. Intent of this time was to provide the Council time to ask questions.

Comments:

- Clpn. Napier asked if there was any way to evaluate a home to show success?
 - Ms. Clancy stated not right now, the study was done by neighborhood.
- Clpn. Vitelli stated you do have the data, just need to dig out and evaluate. He believes the excess is coming from sump pumps.
- Clpn. Bellows asked who did the planning originally with what the capacity is of what clean water collection system can go in? What studies as to the amount of inflow you have because of sump pumps, beaver drains and other clean water gathering systems that end up going into the sanitary system? If it is in fact infiltration where roots are getting into the system, do you have some type of measure?
 - Mr. Colvin stated the original design was based on some allowable clean water.
- Clean water act – separate the two sewer systems.
- Clpn. Bellows asked what efforts has Met Council done to address huge flows of water coming through because of rainfalls.
- Ms. Clancy stated that how to use an I/I is up to the City. System varies by community.

- City Manager Fulton stated they are not finding many sump pumps. One of the solution is to redirect the drains into a sump pump so the water can be pushed out.
- Sump pumps are being identified as part of the I/I inspection.
- Pat stated that the 2008/2009 grant money is gone and wondered if the legislative had any ask for any more?
 - Ms. Clancy stated they have bond money and clean water legacy fund.
 - Task force is to look at whether it is appropriate to have a long term funding.
 - Regional issue.
 - There might be a chance for grant money.
- Clpn. Vitelli stated that during super storms, Pigseye did not discharge into the storm sewer.
 - Why is the penalty stretched over a long period of time?
 - Doesn't think the approach to this thing is correct.
 - As building new homes, there shouldn't be any I/I.
 - Doesn't believe its coming from little cracks in the pipe.
- Clpn. Iago stated that senior citizens have been receiving scams because of this project and is concerned about all the advertisement. He has also received mixed reviews from SEH.
- Clpn. Halverson stated this is a sump pump issue and agrees with Clpn. Vitelli that this is a larger issue than we are saying it is. The major problem is that this is being put back on older homes so we can handle the new construction that is occurring.
- Mayor Meisinger stated we can handle the new sewage demand, can't handle the water on top of it.
- Clpn. Halverson asked that we suspend the project after it started because SEH was having problems inspecting homes. Is the third task force still operating? Are there points that they are assigned to address.
 - Ms. Clancy stated they were assigned to look at the private property issues and I/I mitigation properties.
- Clpn. Halverson would like to see they suspend the project.
- Mayor Meisinger stated that Met Council said we have until 2020 to get the system back up.
- Clpn. Napier suggests we stage this and go and do the floor drains and not do the laterals because we have until 2020.
- Ms. Clancy stated that each community has to define a program, investigate and understand what West St. Paul's challenges are and fix it.
- Clpn. Bellows stated that Met Council is telling us there is a problem and telling us to fix it, but not giving us information on how to fix it. There should be some kind of information available to us.
- Mayor Meisinger agrees with Clpn. Bellows.
- Clpn. Bellows would like additional information as to how other communities have handled similar issues.
- Civil Engineer Rezac showed a brief video showing a leak in the joint. There was surface flooding above the pipe. SEH would produce a video of the pipe.

Resident Comments:

- Resident would like to find out what the basis for the excess water is? SEH monitors are in and are calibrated weekly.
- Resident said it's a tragedy to have pipes replaced if it's truly sump pumps causing the problems. It would be helpful to know where 90% of the problem is coming from so we fix that issue instead of spending money somewhere else.
- Resident stated the City needs to make a decision as to what the problem is, is it roots or what is the problem?
- Resident asked if we paid the 2.7 million and it did nothing, would we have to repay.
- Resident asked what happens in 2020.
 - Met Council continues to monitor. If they exceed, they tell the Cities.

Council Comments continued:

- Clpn. Halverson stated that we invest 2.7 million into infrastructure and then you have to continue to invest to solve the problem.
- Ms. Clancy stated that there are issues with local collection system and we want to make sure you don't have backups into basements.
- Mr. Colvin stated that 2.7 million is the best estimate.
- Mayor Meisinger asked what if we don't do anything from here on out, what is Met Council going to do to us?
- Clpn. Napier stated 15 homes flooded in 2015.
- Clpn. Iago asked if Met Council had any information as to when the readings were taken originally compared to 2014/2015.
 - Mr. Colving stated that they don't have anything today but they do have a regional analysis.

Resident – will we have an extension on the 180 days notice to repair?

Mayor Meisinger stated they will because the Council is going a different direction.

5. Adjourn

The Open Council Work Session adjourned at 6:22 p.m.



David Meisinger
Mayor
City of West St. Paul