

**City of West St. Paul  
Open Council Work Session (OCWS)  
March 28, 2016**

**1. Roll Call**

Mayor Meisinger called the work session to order at 5:33 p.m.

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

Councilmembers Pat Armon and Dick Vitelli had excused absences.

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

**2. Approve OCWS Agenda**

The open council work session agenda was approved as presented.

**3. Review The Regular Meeting Consent Agenda**

No changes were made.

**4. Agenda Items**

**4.A. Discussion Regarding Comcast Franchise Extension and New Franchise Agreement with CenturyLink**

Jodie Miller from NDC4 presented Comcast's request for a 12-month extension on their Franchise Agreement. Jodie Miller also presented a new Franchise Agreement with CenturyLink.

Ms. Miller explained that they are not exclusive with Comcast; however, it has taken 32 years for another franchise to come to them. A Franchise Agreement is passed as an Ordinance and will be brought to the City Council Meeting. The Franchise Agreements with both Comcast and CenturyLink need to have similar requirements and obligations so they are fair. There are State Laws that have to be followed in the Franchise Agreements.

Cpln. Napier asked if Ms. Miller knew which part of the city they were going to build off of. Ms. Miller stated the areas that motivate the company to upgrade are places that need to be upgraded such as older neighborhoods, smaller lots, multi-dwelling units, etc. She can't tell how the layout will be exactly, but that seems to be how it is.

City Manager Fulton asked if they had an option to work with CenturyLink to focus on an area. Ms. Miller stated that she is sure they would be interested in meeting with the City and discussing the City's preference.

City Hall will have access to both Comcast and CenturyLink so they can monitor.

Mayor Meisinger asked how the City should explain CenturyLink coming into West St. Paul. Ms. Miller stated that CenturyLink is the last company to provide services to the Country. This provides options to the residents. CenturyLink says they will be able to compete with Comcast and residents can choose. Hopefully it'll provide better services. There might be some issues with businesses updating their equipment in the right-of-ways.

City Manager Fulton stated that its an important franchise to us. The City just received a \$62,000 check for franchise fees.

Clpn. Bellows feels CenturyLink's Franchise Agreement is better than Comcast. People have a choice now. No one is going to be forced to change. It's up to the residents to figure out. We have an Agreement that protects the City and its really a no harm, no foul here.

Clpn. Bellows stated we are 6 of 7 communities to be approached to approve this. Ms. Miller stated that only 2 cities have fully completed the Franchise Agreement with CenturyLink.

Ms. Miller informed the Council that Comcast did officially comment that they were concerned about the build out procedure, but have not actively participated in any public hearings.

Ms. Miller also informed the Council that in South St. Paul, Comcast is going door to door to offer their services in response to CenturyLink coming in.

#### **4.B. Closed Session Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 Subd. 3(C)(3) to Develop Offers for the Purchase of Real Property at 150 Thompson Avenue E.**

Roll Call for Closed Meeting:

- Mayor David Meisinger and Councilmembers John Bellows, Jenny Halverson, Ed Iago and Dave Napier.
- Others: City Manager Matt Fulton, Finance Director Joan Carlson, PW and Parks and Rec Director Ross Beckwith, Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn, City Attorney Korine Land and Recording Secretary Cindy Holzmer.

Motion made by Clpn. Napier and seconded by Clpn. Halverson to close the meeting at 6:07 p.m. pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 Subd. 3(C)(3). All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion made by Clpn. Halverson and seconded by Clpn. Napier to reopen the meeting at 6:26 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **4.C. Set Meeting Date to Discuss I/I Program**

City Manager Fulton will send out some dates to the Council for next week.

#### **5. Adjourn**

The Open Council Work Session adjourned at 6:26 p.m.



David Meisinger  
Mayor  
City of West St. Paul