

**City of West St. Paul
Open Council Work Session Minutes
August 22, 2016**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor David Meisinger called the work session to order at 4:50 p.m.

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

Others: City Manager Matt Fulton, Assistant City Manager and HR Director Sherrie Le, Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn, Public Works Director Ross Beckwith, City Attorney Korine Land, Police Chief Manila Shaver and City Clerk Chantal Doriott.

2. Review and Approve the Work Session Agenda

Council approved the agenda as presented.

3. Review and Approve the Regular Meeting Consent Agenda

Council approved the regular City Council meeting agenda with one change:

- Remove item 12.A. and continue to a future meeting.

4. Agenda Item(s)

4.A. Closed Meeting to Discuss Management Position for Labor Negotiations

Motion was made by Clpn. Halverson and seconded by Clpn. Bellows to close the meeting at 5:04 p.m. pursuant to Minn. Statute 13D.03 to consider strategy for labor negotiations for 2017 as authorized by said state statute. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Assistant City Manager Sherrie Le gave discussed potential negotiation strategies for the upcoming year.

Motion was made by Clpn. Napier and seconded by Clpn. Armon to open the work session at 5:38 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

4.B. Continuation of Discussion Relating to Bike trails/Sharrows and City-Wide Assessment District

City Manager Matt Fulton said staff had an opportunity to initiate this discussion back on June 27 at a work session. At that time staff was directed to come back with sample drawings of what the bike lanes and sharrow could look like. Manager Fulton presented options for the bike lanes and sharrows and asked Council to consider which option(s) they liked best. Some of the sharrow examples were from the Mayor. A Charlton example shows bike lanes on both sides.

Since we are rebuilding Charlton next week should we consider adding two lanes? A Bernard example shows a bike lane on one side of the street. Staff asked Council to consider bike lanes on Livingston, Bernard and Charlton.

Comments:

- The mayor is in favor of sharrows but not taking away street parking.
- Clpn. Halverson said she understands the parking concerns and wants to seek public input. She is not opposed to Sharrows. Bike lanes help us connect, they are inexpensive and valuable.
- Parking is Clpn. Napier's biggest issue. On Charlton, to eliminate parking, is tough. If there is a way to have bike lanes going both ways on one side of the road that could be an option. We can't eliminate parking on both sides of the street.
- Clpn. Vitelli is on board.
- Clpn. Bellows is somewhat in agreement. Last weekend he drove these sites. Charlton switches from on parking on side, four different times as you head north. That is an issue. Most places on Charlton if you took away parking it could be a severe issue. He is concerned about Livingston as there is no real parking for some and parking on one side of the street only. We would need to spend considerable time reviewing. We need to follow up with citizen input. Make sure we mail these people so we hear from everyone we can and get a full picture. Mayor added that we need to have people that abut these streets as well. Clpn. Halverson added comment.
- When is the County doing work on Wentworth? In 2019 answered Public Works Director Beckwith. Does MTC enter into this equation? No one answered with certainty.
- Mayor Meisinger is in favor of trying one street and not implementing everything all at once.
- Clpn. Iago is concerned about taking away any parking. Council is interested in receiving public input on this idea and what would be the priority streets.
- Mayor Meisinger suggested Charlton from Highway 110 to Wentworth. Notify the residents along that road and get feedback. With the reconstruction of Charlton Avenue from Hwy 110 to Marie next summer, it is important to determine whether or not to include on-street bike lanes in the design process.
- Clpn. Iago would like to see the notice that is being sent to the public prior to mailing.

City Manager Matt Fulton gave an overview and reviewed previous information on a possible city-wide sidewalk assessment program. Staff work is continuing regarding the development of a city-wide sidewalk assessment program for expanding and developing a comprehensive sidewalk and trail system throughout the city. The estimated cost for such a system is around \$6 to \$7 million and would be implemented over time. A new state law allows for the costs to be assessed against all city properties.

Finance Director, Joan Carlson, has developed a possible strategy for implementing a series of overlapping assessment districts that would allow for the sidewalk plan to be financed over the next 14 years with assessment impacts (set currently to a residential equivalency that would start at \$20/ year and adjust annually by \$20.00 until the peak assessment rate of \$100 is reached in five years. the annual assessment rate would start decreasing after year 10. Manager Fulton said the entire city would benefit.

The impact on the use / need for sidewalks/ trails are greater for larger commercial businesses and institutional uses like schools. Therefore, the assessed amount for these land uses should reflect the higher impact/ need. Staff has been considering the most appropriate approach for establishing a tiered assessment level and would appreciate Council input and suggestions.

Possible options to consider:

- Employment levels (difficult to objectively define and keep current);
- Daily pedestrian activity levels (difficult to objectively define and keep current);
- Geographic size of building (objectively definable through GIS);
- Zoning categories (commercial / industrial / institutional (objectively definable)).

Comments

- Why wouldn't you just consider say a 2% levy increase? Manager Fulton is being sensitive to individual proportionate shares. It might be safer and cleaner and simpler. The graph looks too complex to sell to the public.
- Clpn. Bellows this could be problematic. We should figure out what we are looking to do over a set period of time. If we have a plan we can do it so it can increase the cost and some level of cost increase. The people that have sidewalks say on Marie, who just spent a lot of money, this doesn't allow for them. It seems there are a series of issues that are not being addressed.
- Marie Ave. did not get assessed for the new sidewalks. If you have a \$6 to 7 million project it could be fully funded right? Yes. Clpn. Napier likes the idea. If you do a levy they would still pay the same amount because it's based on home value.
- Attorney Korine Land an assessment could be right – would there be a legal means. This statute does not provide for the due process and it's simply you can assess. You would need to provide (and are not obligated) a process. The statute says property classification. It is tied to the class – multi-family, commercial, residential, etc.
- Discussed payment of said assessment over a period of time.
- No one is exempt and everyone is assessed. If it's a levy and you don't pay taxes.
- Manager Fulton added comment about street repairs being taken care of by assessment in other communities.
- Clpn. Halverson also understands the parking concerns and wants to seek public input.
- Council would like to get more information from Joan (Finance Director). This would be a community-wide assessment hearing and probably not done this year; it would be done in 2017. You could add a sidewalk levy into the proposed budget. Mayor Meisinger and Clpn. Halverson were in favor.

5. Adjourn

Council adjourned the work session at 6:15 p.m.



David Meisinger
Mayor
City of West St. Paul