

1. Roll Call

Mayor Jenny Halverson opened the work session at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Halverson and Councilmembers Ed Iago, John Bellows, Bob Pace, Dick Vitelli, Anthony Fernandez and Dave Napier.

Others: Attorneys Korine Land and Peter Mikhail and Interim City Manager Ryan Schroeder, Public Works Director Ross Beckwith, Fire Chief Mike Pott, Police Chief Manila Shaver, Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn, Assistant Community Development Director Ben Boike, Finance Director Joan Carlson and City Clerk Chantal Doriott.

2. Review and Approve the OCWS Agenda

There were no changes or revisions to the work session agenda.

3. Review the Regular Meeting Consent Agenda

The following revisions will be made to the regular Council meeting agenda.

- 9E to new business 1D
- Add TAP grant to reconsider at the next meeting under old business

4. Agenda Item(s)

A. Closed Session to Consider Robert Street Parcel Acquisitions

Motion was made by Clpn. Napier and seconded by Clpn. Bellows to close the work session pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 13b.05 Subd. 3(b) for attorney-client privilege communication purposes. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

City Council and staff: City Manager Ryan Schroeder, Finance Director Joan Carlson, Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn and City Clerk Chantal Doriott were present during the closed session.

Attorney Doug Shaftel gave an overview of Robert Street parcel acquisition recommendations. Council consensus to approve both recommendations as presented.

Motion was made by Clpn. Napier and seconded by Clpn. Bellows to reopen the meeting at 5:29 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

The TAP Grant recommendation needs to be answered by the end of March. Council will discuss this at the regular meeting.

B. City Hall Building Update

This item will be discussed at a future work session.

C. Robert Street Sidewalk Railing

Public Works Director Ross Beckwith gave an overview. The 740-foot sidewalk on the east side of Robert Street, between Muriel Blvd. and Carol Lane has a steep back slope down to the frontage road. MnDOT requires a railing or fence be installed adjacent to the sidewalk for safety. No railing or fence was included in the plans; therefore, this will be an additional project expense. Council was asked to review the following two options which both meet MnDOT's requirements and match the existing railing on the corridor (photos were also reviewed).

1. A 42-inch ornamental railing matching what was is currently in place along the Robert Street corridor at an estimated cost of \$150k.
2. A 42-inch ornamental railing matching the style that is immediately to the south (at Crusader) on top of the retaining wall; except it would be taller. The real difference from Option 1 railing is that Option 2 would not have the arch. The estimated cost of this ornamental railing is \$133k.

Comments:

Councilmembers discussed both options and viewed pictures. They also discussed a brick wall and potential cost; a lot, it is perceived. There needs to be sidewalks on both sides of the street. Clpn. vitelli said a wall would look nice as did others. Clpn. Napier is in favor of a nice decorative railing as the wall will most likely be cost prohibitive. From the street the railing would look very nice. Clpn. Fernandez would like to make sure the posts are anchored correctly as there are some signs along Robert Street that are not completely upright. Clpn. Bellows questioned placement of the fence which is on the street side. The fence is placed to prevent people from falling.

A motion will be made at the regular City Council meeting this evening.

Future Topics - Discussion

Solid waste management discussion refers to garbage trucks and organized trash collection. Liquor license transferability is another item. Clpn. Bellows would like to address these two topics sooner rather than later. Clpn. Bellows would like to see these items be given "date status" so they are not pushed off time and time again. Can we engage in a process to set up a planning process to establish a timeline? Interim Manager Schroeder said yes, he would put together a timeline for these two topics to be discussed. Clpn. Fernandez and others said the trash hauling issue is one that has been discussed.

Director Hartshorn was asked why Signal Hills pulled off the agenda. Director Hartshorn is not sure but there will be more to report in the near future. Mayor Halverson asked, "What can we share with the public at this time?" Director Hartshorn said Signal Hills is working on negotiations with Kmart. The north end of signal hills looks bad. They put everything over on the far north end and Director Hartshorn didn't think there were any complaints about such "debris".

Tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. testimony on the bill asking for an increase in LGA funds will be heard. Clpn. Vitelli and Mayor Halverson will be present along with Interim Manager Schroeder and Lobbyist Joel Carlson. The bonding bill is likely not going anywhere right now.

Attorney Land gave an update on 210 Logan Avenue and said the notice has not been sent out yet. Notice will hopefully go out this week to the property owner to correct and abate the nuisance issues at this property. Short discussion continued.

Councilmembers discussed upcoming community events and meetings. City Clerk will make sure these are noticed for a possible quorum. Notice is posted at the City Hall in the vestibule bulletin board along with other City notices. Conversation ensued regarding Mr. Kimble who is a level 3 predatory offender moving to West St. Paul. The police department is hosting a public meeting about the offender on March 2 at Salem Lutheran Church, 11 Bernard Avenue at 6:00 p.m.

5. Adjourn

Motion was made by Clpn. Fernandez and seconded by Clpn. Napier to adjourn the work session at 6:07 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.



Jenny Halverson
Mayor
City of West St. Paul