



CITY OF NEWPORT
2060 1ST Avenue
Newport, MN 55055
(651) 459-5677
ci.newport.mn.us

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES AUGUST 18, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Elliott called the City Council Workshop to order at 5:48 p.m. on August 18, 2022

2. ROLL CALL

Present (5): Mayor Laurie Elliott, Council Member Kevin Chapdelaine, Council Member Tom Ingemann, Council Member Marvin Taylor, and Council Member Rozlyn Johnson.

Not Present (0): None.

3. ORDINANCE NO 2022-05- Vollrath Sign Text Amendment

City Planner Nathan Fuerst stated the sign text amendment is returning from a previous Council meeting. Vollrath made a request for a large banner to advertise employment opportunities that would be visible from Highway 61. The requested banner was 262.5 square feet. In addition, Vollrath requested to display the banner for 180 or more days. After discussion, staff was guided to amend the draft ordinance to allow for banners up to 80 square feet and a duration up to 120 days. The city would also require a permit so we can track the duration and size of these banners. A public hearing was held at the Planning Commission meeting. Mayor Elliott inquired why a banner would need a permit, but a temporary sign would not need a permit. Planner Fuerst stated the city currently does not require permits for temporary signs, but we would like to track banners that are larger and up for a longer duration. Council discussed and did not propose any changes to the amended draft ordinance so this item can be added to the Consent Agenda.

4. 2023 BUDGET

Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated there is a updated memo on the preliminary budget for Council. Assistant Brierley explained the changes to the budget. The wastewater charge from Met Council went down. There were a few changes to CIP Funds. For the building CIP, security cameras and irrigation were added. There were updates to the equipment CIP for public works to increase the dump truck and chipper. City Hall ballistic glass shielding will be added to the CIP for 2023 in conjunction with law enforcement.

5. THC LAW

Assistant Brierley stated Minnesota recently enacted laws allowing for the consumption of THC products. Metro Cities is asking a few questions of Council so they can send a lobbyist to make recommendations towards regulations. They are looking to find out what if any action has our city considered or adopted in response to the law change. The Council discussed how we could regulate and where we could put this in our ordinance. Assistant Brierley stated we could put a moratorium in place which would allow the city more time. Spring Lake Park has an ordinance that may be helpful to other cities. Council would like to act quickly. Staff should discuss with our attorney.

6. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Assistant Brierley stated future agenda items include the sign ordinance, finalizing building, budget updates, public hearing for lateral lining project, and a special meeting for the City Administrator position.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Elliott adjourned the City Council Workshop at 6:58 p.m. on August 18, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jill Thiesfeld,
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: _____
Laurie Elliott, Mayor