

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
July 19, 2021
City Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Jason Baskin, Michael Postma, Oballa Oballa, Joyce Poshusta and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang and Police Chief David McKichan

STAFF APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, City Clerk Ann Kasel, Library Director Julie Clinefelter

Mayor King opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Item No. 1 – 17th Street NE Deferred Costs

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated as part of the Nature Ridge Development the City needs to extend 17th Street NE. It is not internal to the development and will impact properties not located in the development. One of the properties is a private parcel not located in the City limits that is in tax forfeiture. The County has authority to grant an easement for the construction of the road due to the parcel being in forfeiture. There are costs associated with the development and the estimated cost for this parcel is \$25,000. Mr. Lang recommended deferring the assessment on the parcel until it is annexed into the City.

For Council information only; no Council action needed at this time.

Item No. 2 – Proposed Sale of Sterling Park to Mower County

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson requested Council permission to sell Sterling Park to Mower County. The Park is 1.63 acres and abuts the west end of the fairgrounds that isn't used as a park anymore. The playground has been removed and it is used primarily for pair purposes.

City Attorney Craig Byram stated the process to sell the property will be different and wanted to update the Council with the process. He stated since the park was platted with the development and it had restrictions to keep it as a park. When it wasn't used as a park it would be reverted to the original owners. However, the land is not developable since it is land locked. Mr. Byram stated the City will quitclaim the property to the County and won't give them any warranties of title.

Council Member Baskin stated he is supportive of deeding the property to the County.

Council Member Postma stated he received some concerns about the property being used for camping.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the County has used it previously for camping.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member Waller, recommending the sale of Sterling Park to Mower County. Carried.

Item No. 3 – Austin Bruins Lease

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson presented a proposed extension to the Austin Bruins lease agreement with a one percent increase over the current year's rates. He stated the Bruins would like two extension options for one percent increases for additional years.

He added that the proposed hourly ice rental rate is \$110 per hour for the Rochester Grizzlies to use the ice.

Council Member Fischer stated he is in agreement with a one percent fee for one year.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Fischer, recommending the approval of the Austin Bruins Lease agreement. Carried.

Item No. 4 – 21st Avenue NE Reconstruction

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City has received a \$400,000 grant to reconstruct 21st Avenue NE in 2022. The goal of the project is to improve the safety of the 21st Avenue and 11th Street NE intersection and the project is estimated to cost \$1,400,000.

He presented three options and the pros and cons of each. He stated to keep the islands in the roadway will be approximately \$100,000. The intersection of 21st Avenue NE and 11th Avenue NE will be reconfigured for better turning safety. The Council decided to go with the third concept which is a standard street, which is easier to plow and the most economical and does not have an island.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, recommending option three for the 21st Avenue NE road improvements.

The item will be in the 2022 Capital Improvement Program.

Moved by Council Member -at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adjourning the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk