

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION**  
**October 18, 2021**  
**City Council Chambers**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Police Chief David McKichan, City Attorney Craig Byram

STAFF APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Honorary Council Member Kris Heichel, Austin Daily Herald

Mayor King opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

**Item No. 1 – Airport Zoning Update**

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the airport zoning needs updating to meet current and future runway standards. The current runway was expanded to 5800 feet in the 2000's but will need to be expanded to 6500 feet. There are funds budgeted in the 2021 CIP for the update and MnDOT has grant funding available also. Mr. Lang stated he would begin to work with SEH to develop a project plan for the zoning update.

No Council action needed at this time.

**Item No. 2 – 2022 Capital Improvement Plan**

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert presented the 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan. The plan identifies approximately \$158 million dollars in capital improvements for the City, some of which are contingent on receiving grant funds. The purpose of the work session was to review and ask questions about any of the proposed items. Then the Council will approve the document in December 2021 which authorizes the staff to purchase the 2022 items that are indicated in the CIP. For years 2023 and beyond, the document serves as a guide for the future but is subject to change as the City's needs change.

Police Chief David McKichan discussed the Police Department's capital improvement plan and noted that there are one marked squad car, one unmarked car and a community service officer vehicle budgeted for 2022. The Department has been using funds from the forfeited vehicle reserve balance to outfit the vehicles. He also noted other computer upgrades and other equipment purchases over the next five years.

Council Member Postma asked about body cameras and including that in the CIP.

Chief McKichan stated that will be a significant cost to that expenditure.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert presented the Fire Department's capital improvement items. The Fire Department needs to replace vehicles, a Fire Mini-Pumper and truck and trailer in 2022 at a cost of \$470,000 and the ladder truck in 2025 at a cost of \$1,839,000.

Library Director Julie Clinefelter presented the Library's portion of the capital improvement plan with a facility remodel in 2022. The project will be funded via grants and the tax levy.

Council Member Postma stated he would like the furniture in 2022.

Mr. Nelson reviewed Parks and Recreation requests noting various upgrades to parks including roads, playground equipment, buildings, signs and accessibility. The Park and Rec equipment fleet is also older and various purchases of vehicles and equipment are scheduled over the next five years.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert discussed Administration's capital improvement projects stating that funds are being budgeted for public works equipment, a new copier, computers and other engineering equipment. Each year \$20,000 is set aside for computers and associated equipment.

Steven Lang reviewed the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) noting the repairs and upgrades scheduled for the future. The WWTP is an older facility and continual upgrades are needed to keep it flowing smoothly. The proposed cost to upgrade the WWTP is \$77 million over 4 years.

Steven Lang presented on the proposed improvements to the Central Garage. The older vehicles get rolled down from supervisors to the crew and the vehicle causing the most problems gets sold from the fleet. A rooftop HVAC unit is also scheduled to be replaced in 2022.

Steven Lang stated the Waste Transfer Station is in need to some repairs over the next few years including a new compactor in 2022. The City entered into an agreement for the lease of the transfer station so additional improvements may be made in the future.

Steven Lang stated the airport has been upgraded recently so most of the capital improvement items are maintenance issues. In 2022 new lighting improvements and fuel tank upgrades are planned. Many of the airport projects are contingent upon grants from the FAA or MnDOT.

Steven Lang reviewed the non-MSA streets, noting that these are not supported by the state gas tax. These are local projects paid for with local tax dollars and assessments in order to fund the construction. Each year the street department looks at the proposed streets to see if they need to be reprioritized based on deterioration. In 2022, \$2.6 million dollars in projects are scheduled.

Steven Lang discussed the MSA streets that are funded with approximately \$1 million of state gas tax money each year. The City assesses all of these property owners under the same assessment policy as non-MSA residents. This assessment policy eliminates the favoritism for one street of homeowners versus another. The projects scheduled for 2022 total \$1,600,000 dollars

Steven Lang discussed the upcoming trail projects. There are three additional trails slated for the City of Austin through 2026.

Steven Lang noted the Sanitary Sewer capital improvement plans. Each year funds are allocated for manhole replacements; for inspection of all City mains and inspection of all private lines and plumbing; and for replacement of mains with street construction projects. Lift stations are also scheduled for reconstruction.

Steven Lang noted Miscellaneous Street projects scheduled for 2022 including an LED lighting conversion. There are also additional lighting projects scheduled through 2023.

Steven Lang discussed the items under Miscellaneous Other Projects including tile line installation, sidewalk and pedestrian upgrades, hazardous building removal, Ramsey Dam. Other arena improvements are also scheduled.

Steven Lang discussed the storm water utility district noting that there are various projects scheduled over the next five years to the current system. There have been drainage issues identified that will be addressed through these projects.

Steven Lang presented on the City's Flood Mitigation efforts. The City will continue scattered site acquisitions in 2022 and a levee at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in 2023. There are no grant dollars for the project at this time and LOST funds may have to be allocated for the project to be completed.

Mr. Dankert presented some economic development areas including 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE redevelopment and Port Authority property clean up. He also noted funding for daycare projects has been set aside.

Mr. Dankert concluded the discussion stating he would make minor modifications to the capital improvement plan and bring it back to the Council for adoption in late 2022. No additional Council action needed at this time.

**Item No. 3 – 2022 Budget Discussion**

No Council discussion.

**Item No. 4 – Addition of Whittier Park to the City Archery Hunt**

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson requested that Council add Whitter Park to the City Archery hunt. Hunters would need to comply with all City and State regulations. He stated Council may want to consider allowing hunting in this area.

He will report back once he finds out additional information.

**Item No. 5 - Administrative Report**

None

**Item No. 6 – Open Discussion**

None.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adjourning the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ann M. Kasel  
City Clerk