

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION**  
**November 7, 2022**  
**City Council Chambers**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Jason Baskin

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert and Police Chief David McKichan  
Public Works Director Steven Lang, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Dave Merrill, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Tom Baudler, Laura Helle, Austin Daily Herald,

Mayor King opened the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

**Item No. 1 – City Prosecutor Contract**

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approval the renewal of the City's prosecution contract with Baudler, Maus, Forman & King, LLP. The contract would be for three years at \$17,622 per month.

Police Chief David McKichan stated the police department has been very pleased with the services.

Mayor King noted that his wife is employed by the firm.

Council Member Baker stated this is a 13% increase that was not budgeted for and he expressed his concern about the conflict of interest.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, recommending the approval of a three-year prosecutorial contract with Baudler, Maus, Forman & King, LLP. Yeas- Fischer, Poshusta, Postma Nays- Baker, Waller, Austin. Motion failed to pass at this meeting. Will be discussed at a future meeting upon consultation with the City Attorney.

**Item No. 2 – SKB Landfill Modification Project**

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace provided an update for the SKB Landfill expansion project. She stated the landfill is outside of City limits but within a mile of the City

limits and near Creekside Business park. The property is currently governed by two conditional use permits for the two different areas of the landfill. SKB is requested a modification of the conditional use permits to cover and develop a Class III facility on top of the Class II site. This would allow them to accept different types of waste.

The Mower County Planning Commission met on October 25, 2022 and recommended the approval of the amended conditional use permit. Lansing Township will review the project at their November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

No additional Council action needed at this time.

### **Item No. 3 – Downtown Signal Lights**

Public Works Director Steven Lang reviewed the downtown signal light study by intersection.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Street NW and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW**

This intersection is currently controlled by signal lights. The traffic study results indicated that it a 4-way stop will be sufficient in 2022 and 2042. The City polled the public and it was determined that the public preferred a 4-way stop at this intersection. Mr. Lang noted that the 2042 traffic volumes are projected to be close to the threshold for a signal light. The Council indicated it would support a 4-way stop at the intersection.

#### **1st Street NW and 1<sup>st</sup> Drive NW**

Mr. Lang stated the current method for traffic control at the intersection is a 2-way stop. The traffic study took into consideration a mini-roundabout or a 4-way stop and the criteria for a 4-way stop was met for 2022 and 2042. However, Mr. Lang recommended a mini-roundabout for this intersection with the construction of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW. This would improve traffic flow and the geometry of the intersection. The Council indicated it would prefer a two-way stop.

#### **North Main Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW**

Mr. Lang stated the current method for traffic control at the intersection is signal lights. The traffic study indicated that in 2022 it did not meet the threshold for a signalized intersection by does meet the criteria for a 4-way stop and in 2042 it meets the criteria for a signalized intersection and a 4-way stop. The public indicated that a 4-way stop would be the preferred method for this intersection. Mr. Lang stated either option would be suitable for the intersection. The Council indicated it would prefer a 4-way stop.

#### **North Main Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW**

Mr. Lang stated the intersection is currently controlled via signal lights. The traffic study did not show a need for a 4-way stop or a signal light in 2022 or 2024. He noted this intersection was not part of the public input survey. Mr. Lang concluded that a two-way stop would be the most suitable traffic option for the intersection. The Council indicated it would prefer a 2-way stop.

#### **Item No. 4 – Oakland Avenue West Speed Signs**

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated he has received a complaint from a resident about the speed of eastbound traffic entering the City on Oakland Avenue West. He stated the roadway design would actually accommodate speeds greater than 35 miles per hour because there are limited intersections and service roads. Mr. Lang asked the Council if they felt the speeds on Oakland Avenue West are excessive and presented various options to address the problem. Mr. Lang stated he felt the road is signed appropriately and is a safe roadway.

Council Member Postma stated he appreciates the speed limit in Blooming Prairie and could see the need for a speed sign at the bottom of the hill on Oakland Avenue West.

The Council did not desire to address the issue at this time.

#### **Item No. 5 – 2023 Budget Discussion**

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert stated there were no major changes to the budget.

#### **Item No. 6 - Administrative Report**

None.

#### **Item No. 7 – Open Discussion**

None.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baker, adjourning the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ann M. Kasel  
City Clerk

M I N U T E S  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE  
CLOSED WORK SESSION  
November 7, 2022  
4:15 PM  
Conference Room A

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

MEMBERS PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Council Member Jason Baskin

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, to move to closed session pursuant to labor negotiations strategy under Minn. Stat. § 13D.03, subd. 1(b) at 4:15 p.m. Carried.

**See DVD of Closed Meeting.**

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, to reopen the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adjourning the Council meeting to the regular meeting on November 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ann M. Kasel, City Clerk