

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
January 17, 2023
City Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Laura Helle, Michael Postma, Jason Baskin and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Joyce Poshusta

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

Mayor King opened the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Item No. 1 – Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator position title change

Parks and Recreation Director Dave Merrill requested the title of the Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator be changed to a Nature Center Teacher/Aid. He stated the jobs are very similar and would not have a financial impact to the City.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the position would now be in the union and some of the cost would be picked up by the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center.

Council Member Helle stated she doesn't want the Council to be micromanaging job titles.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Helle, recommending approval of the title change from the Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator to a Nature Center Teacher/Aid. Carried.

The item will be on the February 6, 2023 Council Agenda.

Item No. 2 – Liquor and Licensing Ordinance Changes

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested two liquor ordinances changes. The first is modifying the ordinance stating the manager of a liquor establishment must be a resident of the City. She proposed a 50-mile distance requirement for the manager. The Police Chief and City Attorney have agreed that is an acceptable distance to adequately address any situation that would need a manager's attention. In the alternative, the Council could choose to not have any sort of manager requirement as it is not required in State law.

Council Member-at-Large Austin advocated for no requirement for the manager since it's not in state statutes.

Police Chief McKichan added that it is helpful to have a responsible party in close proximity to the City if there are issues.

Ms. Kasel also stated the State changed the temporary liquor laws and she requested the Council delete the limitation of three consecutive days for temporary liquor licenses. She stated the State allows for up to 7 days in a row, depending on the type of organization.

She also requested changes to the licensing ordinances including repealing the plumbing ordinance because the State now does all the licensing for this.

In addition, she requested the Council repeal the licensing requirements for mechanical amusements devices, billiards, pool tables and bowling.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, recommending modifications to the licensing and liquor ordinances. Carried.

The ordinances will be on the February 6, 2023 Council Agenda.

Item No. 3 - Administrative Report

None

Item No. 4 – Open Discussion

Council Member Baker suggested the Council set goals over the next two years. Next work session have a meaningful discussion on the goals,

Council Member Baskin stated he would like set priorities for the Council.

The matter will be discussed at the February 6, 2023 work session.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk