

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION**  
**December 18, 2023**  
**City Council Chambers**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, City Attorney Craig Byram, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, Chad Heard, Steven Lang, Clint Purkapile, Mike Loucks, Tony Martin, Paul Kirtz, Mitch Wenum, Randy Hofner, Jim McCoy, and David McKichan.

Mayor King opened the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Before the session is closed, Mayor King noted he wanted to give staff a chance to speak.

Public Works Director Steven Lang discussed his email sent to Council regarding the history of staff taking vehicles home so they can respond to emergencies. Mr. Lang noted he understands the policy requirement and the IRS rules, but that Council should “make it right” with staff for this extra tax expense that will be now coming out of their paychecks. Mr. Lang discussed the numerous times his staff are called on nights and weekends to respond.

Chad Heard, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, reiterated Mr. Lang’s stance that staff are responding to many calls in the middle of the night and the weekends.

Item No. 1 – Closed Session (Craig Clark, Trish Wiechmann, Craig Byram, and Tom Dankert stayed with the elected officials for the closed session)

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, closing the work session at 6:54 pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.03 – labor negotiations.

See DVD of closed meeting.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baker, reopening the work session at 7:36.

**Item No. 2 - Administrative Report**

None

**Item No. 3 – Open Discussion**

Council Member Helle questioned if Council wanted to continue announcing anniversaries for city employees. After further discussion, it was decided to continue on the reading of anniversaries, except do them for milestones (1-year, 5-year, 10-years, etc.).

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adjourning the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Tom Dankert  
Director of Administrative Services