

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
July 3, 2017
City Council Chambers

PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Stiehm, Council Members Laura Helle, Paul Fischer, Jeff Austin, Steve King, Judy Enright, David Hagen and Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, City Clerk Ann Kasel

ALSO PRESENT: Austin Daily Herald, Public

Mayor Stiehm opened the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Item No. 1 – Fence Ordinance

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace presented proposed changes to fencing requirements in the City. She stated there have been concerns about safety in I-2 districts and she recommended that the requirement in an I-1 district that outdoor storage be fenced should also be extended to I-2 districts. She also clarified language in the general fencing ordinance. She added that existing outdoor storage would need to comply with the new fencing requirement within six months.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, recommending adoption of I-2 fencing requirements and updates to the fencing ordinance. Carried.

The item will be placed on the July 19, 2017 Council meeting.

Item No. 2 – Thorson Annexation

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested the Council authorize an annexation of property for Steve and Deb Thorson. Ms. Wallace stated she attended the last Red Rock Township meeting and there were no objections. The Thorsons would need to pay the sewer connection fees once annexed into the City.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Hagen, recommending annexation of the Steve and Deb Thorson properties. Carried.

The item will be placed on the July 19, 2017 Council meeting.

Item No. 3 – Downtown Parking Study

Public Works Director Steven Lang presented the results of a 2017 parking study in the downtown area. He compared the 2017 results with studies from 2014 and 2011 and concluded that parking in the downtown areas has remained fairly level over the last three years. At least 50% of the parking stalls are available are open at any given time in the downtown area.

Council Member Helle suggested the City move forward on renaming the parking lots downtown as previously proposed.

For informational purposes only, no Council action needed.

Item No. 4 – 2017 Council Goals / Administrative Report

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the old Nature Center building has been demolished pursuant to the Council goals.

Item No. 5 - Open Discussion

Council Member Helle stated she would like to see a rental property ordinance soon.

Council Member Enright stated a rental ordinance had previously been drafted but Council did not adopt the full ordinance.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace stated she is working on the ordinance and Mayor Stiehm stated it will be on a future work session.

Council Member Austin asked if employees are given exit interviews.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the City offers exit interviews but few employees have taken one.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the work session at 6:13 p.m.

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk