

City Council/Manager

August 12, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Virtual WebEx Meeting

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor Harris and Council Members; Rosenquist, Fonnest, Sanberg and Harris.

Staff present: City Manager Cruikshank and Finance Director Virnig.

1. Human Services Commission and Golden Valley Community Foundation Discussion

Councilmember Fonnest explained he suggested having this topic on the agenda to highlight the accomplishments of the Human Services Commission and the Golden Valley Community Foundation (GVCF) as well as to discuss the overlap between the two organizations. Fonnest pointed out that he believes there appear to be overlap between the outreach and fundraising activities in which both organizations are involved in. He explained that due to this overlap, the community might find it burdensome to receive communication from both groups on the same matters, and in turn this could have unintended consequences to raise funds in support of these agencies. Fonnest asked that the Council discuss what they would hope to see happen in the future. City Manager Cruikshank offered a historical perspective on the Golden Valley Community Foundation. Since its inception, the duties, services and generation of revenue have unintentionally overlapped with the Human Services Commission (HSC). There have been several efforts to achieve what Councilmember Fonnest is recognizing with no immediate resolution to date.

Councilmember Sanberg stated she attended the HSC meeting on August 10 and offered to share the commission's perspective of the issue on their behalf. The commission is willing to consider the possibility of partnering with the GVCF or explore avenues to better support the foundation. Sanberg stated the commission is also concerned about potential changes based on being in a good place in terms of revenue streams and the work they are doing.

Councilmember Harris expressed he agreed with Councilmember Fonnest that there could be better coordination on target audiences for fundraising support to avoid overlap and burdening the community.

Councilmember Fonnest suggested bringing the HSC and GVCF and City Council to discuss a new direction moving forward, involving consideration and consultation to better coordinate City's efforts around fundraising. Mayor Harris agreed with Fonnest and added that the Council should set a deadline and parameters to reach an agreement. Harris also expressed concerns on the ability of the foundation to raise funds and act as fiscal agent to other local non-profit organizations. Mayor Harris asked if the HSC and the GVCF will be able to come to an agreement on cost and revenue sharing given that these conversations occurred in the past without a resolution.

Councilmember Rosenquist agreed that a meeting of both organizations would be productive. She added that the Council's role as mediator is valuable to achieve goals.

Mayor Harris asked City Manager Cruikshank questions about staff capacity to help guide this process. Cruikshank said that he didn't foresee issues with staff assisting with this process. Councilmember Sanberg stated she is not opposed to having a facilitated conversation with the leadership of the foundation and the commission where coordinated efforts are discussed— anything beyond that would be more challenging given that the history, structure and funding models of both organizations are very different, she said. Councilmember Rosenquist shared her experience with the Meadowbrook PTO as a contextual example in favor of such a meeting between organizations. She explained that as a result of poor coordination, different groups of parents were reaching the same target entities and businesses on behalf of Meadowbrook PTO. A decision was made to meet with leadership and plan out a year strategy regarding events, their purpose, and the kind of support they would need. She explained that it served the overall goal of creating funds to support programs and the overall structure of the school.

Councilmember Harris spoke in favor of a meeting between the HSC, GVCF and City Council and said that the meeting would be a very targeted and guided discussion, to identify gaps, narrow the focus and identify potential solutions. Mayor Harris added that his hope was that this conversation would help the organizations find ways to help each other meet needs and identify goals.

City Manager Cruikshank suggested the meeting attendees be select leadership from both organizations along with staff liaisons. He added it would be appropriate that a member of City Council facilitated the discussion.

Council Consensus was that Councilmember Fonneist assume the role of facilitator and for the meeting to take place in the near future.

2. 2021-2022 Proposed General Fund Budget

Finance Director Virnig presented the staff report which is comprised of the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget. Virnig outlined the 2020 schedule and stated that on September 15, the City Council is set to consider the proposed City budget and levy along with the HRA Levy and Budget. She explained that all building permit types (building, electrical, heating, etc.) will exceed the budget amount by \$94,500. She explained that the City used positive performance to help with the expenditures from the COVID-19 pandemic. Virnig added that Fines and Forfeitures are down \$86,000 due to COVID-19 unrest and the courts being closed. On the topic of property tax revenue, the City is experiencing slightly higher allowances due to delinquencies. She stated that the estimated use of fund balance is totaled at \$82,125 which is much lower due to delay of projects and staff hiring. Virnig continued with the total bonded debt. The City reduced the debt from \$69,000,000 to \$65,000,000 in 2020, part of this decrease was due to the City not selling bonds for the 2020 Pavement Management Program (PMP) and an issue that was refinanced when 2017 came due.

Virnig detailed the 2021 proposed general fund expenditures including but not limited to: City website redesign, addition of critical full-time positions, premium increases for League of

Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) and supplies for Brookview facility are properly estimated. The overall items contain a proposed 2% salary increase as the cost of living adjustment (COLA) and an increased contribution to health insurance for employees.

Virnig discussed new items in the 2021 HRA budget. She explained the HRA Levy would help the City lead its housing initiatives and build collaborative relationships with multi-family property owners and managers, civic groups, industry groups, and non-profit organizations. It would also allow for implementation of economic development strategies while providing additional funding for new affordable housing opportunities.

Mayor Harris asked staff to talk about some of the duties of the proposed listed new positions. Councilmember Rosenquist expressed concerns about adding too many positions in 2021 after the City implemented a hiring freeze in response to COVID-19 in 2020. Mayor Harris expressed concerns about increasing the hours for the Assistance Recreation Supervisor from part-time to full time at this point in time, citing financial impact over residents and not wanting to increase the levy by too much. Councilmembers Harris and Rosenquist agreed that at this time the need for that position to transition into full time is not a priority. At the request of the Council, staff explained that the current position is in charge of coordinating and evaluating a variety of parks and recreation programs and events as well as assisting the Recreation Supervisors with creating schedules and supervising programs and part-time/seasonal and volunteer staff.

Councilmembers Sanberg and Fonnest debated the potential to hold a meeting with the Chief of Police to discuss the 2021 Police budget more comprehensively given that a significant percentage of the general fund budget goes towards the Police department (totaled at \$6,700,000 dollars). While thinking about some of the settings where the Police interacts with community members, Councilmember Sanberg added that possibly certain resources in the police budget could be shifted to a different part of the City budget, for instance re allocating some of the money to affordable housing initiatives. Mayor Harris supported Sanberg's proposal and said the conversation would be timely and appropriate. Councilmember Harris added that looking at current data for police calls would help balance police funding allocation and effectiveness. The Council agreed to continue the conversation within the next month.

The Council is fully supportive of the COLA adjustment increase.

Councilmember Fonnest discussed the Housing and Economic Development Manager position. The individual in this position would look at workforce and affordable housing issues and would assist with the economic development of the City. Fonnest expressed he sees merit in having a dedicated manager involved in both of these purposes. Mayor Harris agreed on the timeliness and importance of this position. Councilmember Rosenquist said that this position would assist in finding partners, grants, and leverage money for the City's housing initiatives.

City Manager Cruikshank explained that Chief Sturgis would be invited to the next Council Manager meeting September 1 to discuss the Police department budget. Cruikshank added that the proposed levy and budget would be finalized for adoption consideration at the September 15 City

City of Golden Valley
August 12, 2020 – 6:30 pm

City Council/Manager Regular Meeting Minutes

Council meeting. Councilmember Sanberg and Rosenquist asked staff to prepare a summary of the Police department types of calls for service, their origin and how they get routed internally.

The Council thanked staff for their work and agreed to re visit these topics on the next Council Manager meeting September 1.

3. Council Review of Future Draft Agendas: City Council August 18, City Council September 1, HRA Work Session September 8, Council/Manager September 8, Special HRA Meeting September 15, City Council September 15, City Council October 7, and Council/ Manager October 13, 2020

City Manager Cruikshank explained that the Council Manager meeting agenda for October 13 was amended to include:

- Discussion of Section 8 of the Nuisance Ordinance
- Discussion of the Crime Free Ordinance

No further changes were submitted for future drafts agendas.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Shepard M. Harris

Shepard M. Harris (Sep 16, 2020 17:32 CDT)

Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tomas Romano

Tomas Romano, Assistant to the City Manager's Office



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.

