

CITY OF EXCELSIOR  
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES

City Council Work Session

Monday, June 18, 2012

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Mayor Ruehl called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Caron, Fulkerson (arrived at 6:40 p.m.), Miller (arrived at 5:40 p.m.), Olson, and Mayor Ruehl

Also Present: City Manager Luger, City Attorney Staunton (arrived at 5:40 p.m.), City Engineer Dawley, Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf, and City Clerk

**2. Agenda Approval**

Olson moved, Caron seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3/0.

**3. Metropolitan Council Forcemain Project**

Dawley said that the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) owns and operates a sanitary sewer force main located within City of Excelsior public road right of way and easement. To increase overall capacity and to provide increased reliability in their wastewater conveyance system, MCES has been planning to install a new 24" sanitary sewer forcemain pipe while keeping the existing forcemain in place.

Dawley showed the route for the forcemain improvements which parallels the existing forcemain, located in the rights of way for Beehrl Avenue, George Street, Morse Avenue, and Excelsior Boulevard, and an easement across the Excelsior Elementary School property.

Dawley provided an overview of the draft cooperative agreement. He noted that additional City infrastructure work will be allowed. MCES will fund all of the engineering, design, and construction plan preparation costs, and the costs incurred by the City in reviewing the improvements. MCES will also fund all easements, permanent and temporary, needed to conduct the installation of their facilities. The City will need to pay for any easements necessary for any additional work the City wants done.

MCES is proposing to hold two public meetings within about a three-week timeframe for residents and a separate meeting through the Chamber of Commerce or similar group for business owners. MCES will mail meeting notices directly to the residents and businesses.

### **3. Metropolitan Council Forcemain Project – (Continued)**

Dawley said that preliminary discussions with MCES have indicated that construction is anticipated to be conducted over two years, commencing in 2013 and with substantial completion in 2014.

Caron asked if construction could take more than 18 months. Dawley said he is not sure. Mayor Ruehl said that the City has had discussions with MCES over the last four years regarding the timing of the work and the City has been very specific on when some of the phases can be completed.

Dawley reviewed a scheduling and phasing timetable that staff put together. He noted that through the design efforts and public involvement to be conducted by MCES in the coming months that the map may be refined and used to develop the overall construction schedule that will be included in the final agreement.

Mayor Ruehl said he doesn't know how many feet can be accomplished during a month in the summer versus the winter. He asked about access to residences and businesses. Dawley said that it would be outlined in the contract, the contractor will need to provide access to residents or businesses as much as possible with minimal disruption.

Mayor Ruehl said that staff needs to verify with other cities that the MCES contractor has been able to meet this requirement. Luger said that the City of Victoria has had two MCES projects; a meeting has been scheduled with the City of Victoria staff to get input on how those projects went.

Miller asked if a meeting with all of the utilities should happen ahead of time. Dawley said that MCES held a meeting recently with all of the utilities.

Caron said it would be helpful to know if there will be multiple crews working in different areas at the same time. Dawley said that the City can dictate the schedule it wants and then MCES will need to provide that. Staff will have the opportunity to review the bid documents before they go out to make sure everything that the City has asked for is covered. He noted that it is typically a larger outfit that will bid on these projects and the companies tend to have enough workers and equipment to work in more than one area at a time.

Caron said that the City learned through its street projects that there are damages that can occur to private properties. Dawley said that there will be language in the contract to cover this.

Luger asked if the Council would prefer to see multiple areas happening at the same time or one crew working in one area and then moving onto the next. Dawley said that the company typically has more than one crew working, but doing different jobs.

**3. Metropolitan Council Forcemain Project – (Continued)**

Dawley said that MCES would like to begin holding public meetings with the affected properties within the project area. The project area will be split in half and two public meetings will be held. A third meeting may be held with the downtown businesses. Dawley asked if the City should require that another meeting be held with the entire City, with MCES mailing notices of the meeting to everyone within the City.

Miller suggested that the Council begin talking about this project at the regular meetings and then have a section on the City's website with information available.

Miller said that the Council needs to have some important discussions with regard to the assessments for City improvements. Luger said this will be discussed later on in the process.

Caron said it might be good to have a meeting where everyone is noticed because it will affect everyone in the City and also have a presentation at a regular Council meeting.

Dawley said he would request that MCES do a presentation at a regular City Council meeting and also send notices to everyone in the City.

Dawley presented an overview of the public improvements that staff has identified to be included with MCES's project. The streets that would have improvements included Beehrle Avenue, George Street, Morse Avenue, and Excelsior Boulevard. Also included for discussion, is a possible roundabout at the five corner intersection. He reviewed the preliminary cost estimates and potential funding for the improvements.

Dawley said that there was a lot of information provided. He asked that the Council take some time to review the information and give some thought to the public improvements and cooperative agreement so they can provide staff with input and direction at the next Work Session.

**4. Other**

None

**5. Adjournment**

Olson moved, Caron seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Johnson  
City Clerk