

City of Excelsior
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES
EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, December 16, 2013

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Gaylord called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Caron, Fulkerson, Miller, and Mayor Gaylord

Absent: Councilmember Beattie

Also Present: City Manager Luger, and City Clerk Murphy

2. Agenda Approval

Fulkerson moved, Caron seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4/0.

3. Review Liquor Licenses - Number of Licenses Available

City Clerk Murphy gave a review of the current liquor license availability, along with the number of licenses issued and the number of licenses pending.

Miller stated that he would like to see the number of licenses available equal to those that are currently issued plus those that the City is aware of that are coming up. Miller spoke with Beattie prior to the meeting and believes his point is that we would have more leverage and a way to control the number of licenses issued. Caron thinks the owners of 440 Water Street have given up on the grocery store option. Luger stated that her last conversation with the property owners was in July when they asked what the process would be if the location is not a grocery store. Miller spoke with Kowalski's who said that Oppidan's lease is too high for them.

Miller and Caron agree to lower the number of licenses available. Miller stated that right now the feeling is uncomfortable with the amount of restaurants in Excelsior. It is the most volatile type of business and we may be near the limit now.

Council discussed the combination license. Caron thinks it could be loophole for someone to get a combination but then only use part of it (for example, only using the On-Sale part of the license).

Bob Bolles, 229 George Street, addressed the Council. Bolles stated that he is glad the Council is looking at this topic and agrees we're getting to the limit of restaurants. He said that what the Council is suggesting sounds good. He said if the liquor and restaurant business drops, it could be devastating to the City.

Council directed staff to change the number of liquor licenses available to equal the number that have been issued plus the number pending.

4. 2014 City Council Goals

Luger is looking for direction from the Council on the 2014 City Council goals. The only items that were removed from the 2014 list are:

- Study of City Fees
- Look into Adding Another Member City to the South Lake Police Department

Staff suggested the Council discuss whether to add, delete or save the following goals:

Evaluate Options Regarding Nuisance Abatement on George Street

Luger stated that there is no documentation on the allowable use or any expansion on the use that was originally approved. Fulkerson questioned if there are encroachment issues with the trail. Miller questioned the zoning of the property. Luger stated that it is zoned residential but taxed commercial but the records are not very clear. Miller suggested pursuing ways to improve the property. City Attorney Staunton said he could summarize the history of the issue for the Council in an email. Miller stated that there was a problem with the property across the street and, when the City put pressure on the owner, they cleaned it up. Luger stated that it is a very delicate issue. Caron compared this to Jerome Studdard's junkyard and said the City had made know that they wanted it cleaned up and eventually family members took care of it. Mayor Gaylord suggested looking at the City's ordinance regarding the amount of trash and vehicles that can be on a property. Mayor Gaylord said to keep this item on the list.

Explore Options for St. Alban's Bay Bridge

Mayor Gaylord said this is a future item and doesn't think we should put any money into it right now. Luger said when the rating drops, the City will qualify for money to take care of it. She also stated that Greenwood is ready to move on it, but Excelsior is waiting for the rating to drop and will continue to monitor it.

Explore Replacing the Former Courtland Bridge with a Pedestrian Bridge

Mayor Gaylord would like to see this project happen but asked if we have the money to do it. Miller agreed that it would be nice to have and asked if we should do this before the roundabout. Miller said he would rank The Commons improvements first, then the bridge, then the roundabout, in that order. Caron said she would put The Commons first and Fulkerson agreed. The Council agreed to keep the bridge on the list, but as a low priority. Traffic counts came back higher than they thought it would be for the five-corners intersection.

Luger asked if the Council wants to use the 2014 goal list that was generated. Mayor Gaylord thought the list was good and said that not much has changed. He stated the priorities may have shifted but it's a pretty comprehensive list. Luger said the next step is to rank priorities, which can be done via email. Luger also said that a lot of these items are actively being worked on right now, so some could be

4. 2014 City Council Goals - (Continued)

accomplished in 2014. She said that the City has made a lot of progress in 2013. The Council agreed that the Commission items should stay on the list.

Mayor Gaylord asked if the Lyman Lumber Building had been sold.

Bob Bolles, 229 George Street, addressed the Council. Bolles stated that the Lyman Lumber Building was sold several months ago and that someone local is currently using it for an office building.

Fulkerson asked about funding for remodeling City Hall. Luger said there is approximately \$1.6M in the capital fund set aside for the City Hall remodel and other major capital projects. Luger will send the goals list to the Council so they can respond with their priorities. After that, the list will come to a Council meeting for the Council to prioritize.

Another question asked of the Council was if they want to do a joint meeting with the Advisory Commissions in 2014. The meeting could be bumped up to April. Mayor Gaylord said earlier is better.

In regards to the tentative Work Session schedule, Luger asked if the Council wants to make any changes. Mayor Gaylord said it would be nice to have no Work Session meetings in the summer prior to Council meetings. Luger said the July 21 meeting could be removed but the June meetings are necessary. Luger will try and cut down on some summer meetings. Gaylord also suggested limiting those meetings to 30 minutes.

Mayor Gaylord asked about the Park and Recreation Commission meeting and their review of the dock fees. Miller said that the Park and Recreation Commission wants to think more about a flat fee for dock slips. Miller said there was a lot of discussion about making the minimum boat length 20 feet but those currently with boats under 20 feet may not be able to afford the higher priced slip. Luger stated that the Park and Recreation Commission is continuing this item to their January meeting, so the Council won't see it on the Council agenda until possibly the January 21, 2014 Council meeting.

5. Adjournment

Caron moved, Fulkerson seconded, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Murphy
City Clerk