



Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes
City Hall ~ December 11, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ellen Anderson Buck, Council Members Joe Benda, Jason Thuman, Chris Schmit, Patrice O'Reilly

Absent: None

Guests: Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman, Jason Mandelkow, Todd Kieffer, McCrae Olson, Mayor-elect Ernie Valenzuela, Kyle McKeown, Melissa Thomforde, Taylor Thomforde

Budget Discussion

The budget discussion was open to the public. There was no public discussion. A motion to close the budget discussion was made by O'Reilly, seconded by Schmit, motion carried 5-0-0.

Call to Order

Mayor Buck called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approve or amend Agenda

Additions to the Agenda are items 15 & 16. 2025 Rates for Legal Services and Zoning Ordinance/Commercial Property. Motion to amend the agenda was made by Schmit, seconded by O'Reilly, motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the November 26, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Thuman, seconded by O'Reilly, motion carried 5-0-0.

EDA Work Session

The EDA has applications available online with a deadline of January 6, 2025. The EDA will then report back with applicants and discuss appointments. The pickleball contract information and documents reviewing the current status of the cracks in the new pickleball court is being reviewed by the City Attorney.

City Council Work Session

Snowplow quotes were received, reviewed, and accepted to be added to the consent agenda for approval at the December 17, 2024 meeting.

Council discussed the suggested changes to the fee schedule for 2025. Some of those items were annual private fire hydrant maintenance fee, pool fees, property pin locations fees, and annual dog license. The council will review the golf cart details next year and place the current schedule on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

The cost-of-living adjustment rate that is suggested is 2.5%. Council discussed how it affects the budget and agreed to place on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

The Interim City Administrator, Lisa Redepenning, was hired as an interim position until the end of the year for review at that time. Both parties agree that it has worked well for both the city and the employee, so the position will change removing Interim as of January 1, 2025. The administrator status change will be on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

The personnel policy has been reviewed by council and the personnel committee. It will be added to the consent agenda for approval at the next meeting.

Currently the Public Works staff has one more review with the Personnel Committee at the end of this year. As of 2025, all employees will have their reviews with the City Administrator as their supervisor.

The Gas Commission passed their bylaws and a rate increase at their last meeting. The City Administrator asked council for permission to reach out to their attorney for clarification on the Gas Commission bylaws to make sure the city is protected before approving them. A motion was made by Benda, Seconded by O'Reilly, to get a legal interpretation of the Gas Commission bylaws, motion carried 5-0-0.

Applications for the Gas Commission Board were reviewed. A motion was made by Benda, to appointment Wayne Gadiant and Mitch Lindholm to the Gas Commission Board, seconded by O'Reilly, motion carried 5-0-0.

Council questioned how "on-call" works with hourly vs. salary positions. The new personnel policy that was obtained through the League of Minnesota Cities clarifies that language. Non-Exempt salary positions are not allowed to get paid for "on-call" also.

The Goodhue Senior Living request for adding a sidewalk to downtown was discussed. The sidewalk was never included in the original plans. The city engineer submitted a very rough estimate of the project. The landowners are not in favor of the sidewalk. There are a lot of things that need to be done to make that happen. There are waterways, catch basins, private property, lighting issues, and future maintenance costs to consider. This project is not even in the budget for those affected. City will contact Goodhue Senior Living with council concerns.

Mayor Buck updated the council on the progress with the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District. The land for this is acquired. The utilities study is done. We have strong support from Prairie Island. It sounds like there are going to be two separate bonding bills. Mayor Buck reminded council that when talking to the public, please remind people that we are not able to develop more land because of the current status of our sewer system.

Mayor Buck tabled the resolution 24-25 until the next meeting. The resolution appoints Lisa Redepinning as the City of Goodhue director of the executive committee for the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District board to replace Ellen Anderson Buck at the end of her Mayoral term. Ellen Anderson Buck will continue as the alternate director.

Rates for the 2025 legal services with Kennedy & Graven Chartered will be \$200/hr. Most of our fees came from the last year of challenges that we needed help with. Now with a full-time administrator we anticipate they would not be as much. We have had good experience with them, and they have people with specific skills that can help us. They will be on our list of appointments for January of 2025.

The City Zoning Ordinance states that no apartments are allowed on the first floor of commercial property. This also poses a problem with the parking ordinance and parking on the streets in front of businesses taking their customer parking. We have had a complaint on second street that there is an apartment in a commercial building and the Goodhue County Building Inspector is handling that complaint.

An invoice for the fire department was received and passed on to the fire department to follow up on processing their request for payment to that vendor. The bylaws specifically state that the Fire Department will pay all invoices.

Public Works reported that the water tower work is completed. Regarding the lead service lines, our Engineer has the list of those residents with galvanized pipes. When funding for replacement becomes available. Payment was made to Goodhue County Soil and Water for best tillage management practices performed throughout the City of Goodhue drinking water supply management area. (DWSMA) These funds will be reimbursed by a grant the city received from the Minnesota Department of Health source water protection implementation grant.

Council Comments

The flower committee was looking for funds. The committee should have someone appear in person to request funds.

Mayor Comments

The final meeting of the year is on December 17 and to accommodate staff, the meeting time was moved to 5:30.

Other

The second half of the LGA

Approval of Bills

A motion was made to approve the bills by Schmit, seconded by O'Reilly, motion carried 5-0-0.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:06 p.m. by Council Member Schmit, seconded by Thuman, motion carried (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk