

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Special Worksession

July 26, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Goettel at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present:

Debbie Goettel, Mayor; Fred Wroge; Sue Sandahl (arrived 5:35 p.m.); Pat Elliott; and Tom Fitzhenry.

Staff Present:

Pam Dmytrenko, Acting City Manager; Mike Eastling, Public Works Director; Jim Topitzhofer, Recreation Services Director; Mark Hall, Fleet/Park Maintenance Supervisor; Corrine Heine, City Attorney; and Cheryl Krumholz, Recording Secretary.

Item # 1

DISCUSSION REGARDING ORGANIZED GARBAGE COLLECTION

Mayor Goettel invited Richfield haulers to address the City Council.

Bob Elliott, Aspen Waste Systems, Inc., favored the current collection to remain the same because it provides a chance for a company to grow and prices to be competitive. He added school buses and delivery trucks also impact the condition of streets.

Mark Stoltman, Randy's Environmental Services, opposed government managed collection and would rather partner with the City to meet needs. He said larger companies have bigger pockets than independents but may not provide better services. He added the environment does road damage, not trucks.

Darrell Hoekstra, Waste Management, stated their corporate position is neutral. The Request for Proposal could address some of the City's concerns and haulers by participating in the process.

Gregory Burt, Burt's Disposal, opposed organized collection because there should be a freedom to choose the hauler and could result in some loss of employment. He suggested restricting the number of licenses issued by the City if legally possible.

Council Member Wroge asked the company representatives if they negotiate prices with their customers. They all responded yes.

Mayor Goettel discussed sustainability, carbon footprint, developing a way to limit the number of pick ups and increasing recycling.

Council Member Fitzhenry discussed dividing the City into sections and having haulers bid per area.

Council Member Elliott said money does not drive most people in the community and suggested waiting for the outcome at Maplewood.

Council Member Sandahl stated she has mixed feelings on this issue. She suggested additional information as it becomes available be received on road and environmental impact studies, business impacts and cost recovery and waiting for the outcome at Maplewood.

Mayor Goettel suggested organized hauling could be a way to have a "Push-to-the-Curb Day" in Richfield which she believes residents really want.

Council Member Fitzhenry agreed to waiting for the outcome at Maplewood.

City Attorney Heine explained the State Statute requirements for restricting the number of licenses issued by the City, which is a form of organized collection.

Council Member Wroge stated two years ago he originally favored organized collection but has since changed his mind because there should be the freedom to choose and he did not want the City to handle the administration of the service.

The City Council consensus was to direct staff to gather additional information as it becomes available, monitor this issue in Maplewood and report back to the City Council, and explore the "Push-to-the-Curb Day."

Item # 2	DISCUSSION REGARDING SIDEWALK SNOWPLOWING
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Public Works Director Eastling reviewed the current City sidewalk snowplowing policy and practices, policies and practices from other cities and possible changes to Richfield's.

Council Member Wroge stated the sidewalk snowplow does not clean down to the cement and that residents could shovel sooner and do a better job.

Mayor Goettel suggested not shifting the snow removal to residents until better sidewalks are in place.

The City Council consensus was to not change the current sidewalk snow plowing policy and practices and if residents request and City Council approves additional sidewalks in the City, snowplowing of these sidewalks will be addressed.

Item # 3	DISCUSSION REGARDING HONORING ALL VETERANS MEMORIAL
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Recreation Services Director Topitzhofer reviewed the Honoring All Veterans Memorial design drawings and cost estimate for the remaining work on the monument. The Memorial Board requested the City Council consider providing funds for the remaining work in the form of a loan to be paid back from future engraving proceeds.

Recreation Services Director Topitzhofer reviewed two cost estimate options – partial completion with a four to five year payback timeframe and full completion with a longer payback period.

Council Member Sandahl expressed preference for a full completion because payback would be sooner if it were done.

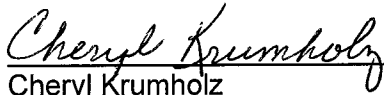
Council Member Wroge expressed concern regarding maintenance and how the project has grown since the original plan. He suggested completing the original design plan first and then expanding because it may be more difficult to obtain proceeds in the future.

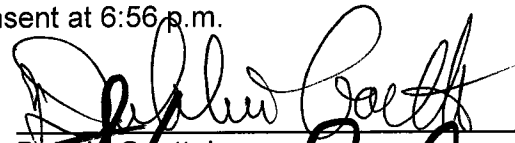
The City Council consensus was to have more discussion at a future meeting and include more landscaping options.

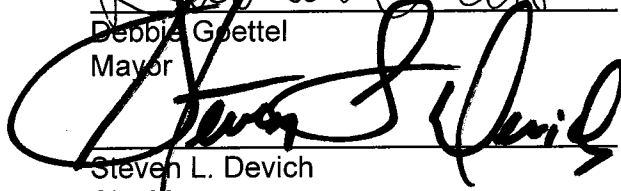
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:56 p.m.

Date Approved: August 9, 2011


Cheryl Krumholz
Recording Secretary


Debbie Goettel
Mayor


Steven L. Devich
City Manager