



**CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
October 16, 2023**

**1) Call to Order**

Mayor called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Roll Call of Attendees:**

**Present** – Council: Mayor Lisa Whalen, Cathleen Reffkin, Ann MacGregor, Peter Vickery and Claudia Lacy Staff: City Administrator Jasper Kruggel, Finance Director Brian Grimm, Public Works Director Gary Peters, Director of Administration Allie Polsfuss, City Clerk Ann Meyerhoff, City Attorney Sarah Sonsalla, Kennedy and Graven.

**2) Water Fund Budget Follow up Discussion**

Finance Director, Brian Grimm provided an overview.

Highlights include:

- Updated utility rate study which reflects additional projected revenue for this year.
- Updated 2024 Water Fund Budget that incorporates a rate adjustment of 6% for 2024 from 2023 for utility rates. This is down from the original 8% projected increase that was presented at the September 18, 2023 meeting.

There was discussion about the sewer connection fees and rates as well as utility rate increases in the future.

Council agreed on a 7% water utility increase for 2024 and raising the connection fees to \$3700.00.

**3) Recycling Fund Budget Discussion**

Finance Director, Brian Grimm provided an overview.

Highlights include:

- Staff is looking for Council feedback and direction as to the budgets and utility rates for 2024 Recycling Fund activities.
- In order to fund these recycling activities, analysis is needed as to the current and projected cash balance in this fund.
- The City's contracted rates with Waste Management are

locked in through August 2025. The recycling rate is currently \$13 a quarter.

- The current cash balance in the fund as of September 2023 is \$142,827.

MacGregor shared frustration that residents are being charged for recycling even if they don't use the services.

Whalen explained that because of how the contract is written, the City is getting charged for every house therefore it is passed on to all residents regardless of if they use the service.

City Administrator added that State Statute 115A dictates that this required.

Council agreed to raise the rate \$1 changing the quarterly rate to \$14 in 2024.

#### **4) Cable Fund Budget Discussion**

Finance Director, Brian Grimm provided an overview.

Highlights include:

- The current cash balance in the fund as of September 2023 is \$64,022.
- The cash and fund balance in the fund is much lower than it was as planned in the 2023 budget due to the Midcontinent broadband expansion project.
- The franchise agreement with Mediacom has been renewed, so the City will continue to get some level of franchise fee revenue in 2024.

Discussion has had about salary expenditures from this fund and taking from the general fund.

Whalen indicated if the Council would like to redistribute employee salaries from the cable fund, it would increase the levy. The Council would like to keep it the same for the 2024 budget and revisit for the 2025 budget.

#### **5) Closed session - pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(b) to discuss the City's options to participate in multidistrict lawsuit class settlements entitled: *In RE: Aqueous Film Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation; United States District Court, District of South Carolina – Charleston Division; MDL No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMB; City of Camden, et al., v. 3M Company, Case No. 2:23-cv-03147-RMG; City of Camden, et al., v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, et al., Case No. 2:23-cv-0320-RMG.***

Motion by Reffkin, seconded by Vickery to enter into closed session.

Motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Reffkin, seconded MacGregor to end the closed session.

Motion passed 5-0

**6) Adjourn**

Motion by Vickery, seconded by Reffkin to adjourn at 6:13 p.m.

Motion passed 5-0.