



**CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2023**

1) Call to Order

Mayor Whalen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Roll Call of Attendees:

Present – Council: Mayor Lisa Whalen, Cathleen Reffkin, Ann MacGregor and Peter Vickery; Staff: City Administrator Jasper Kruggel, Finance Director Brian Grimm, Community Development Director, David Abel, Director of Public Safety Paul Falls, Director of Public Works Gary Peters, and Deputy City Clerk Angela Boll Consultants: City Engineer Alyson Fauske, WSB Engineering

Absent: Council: Claudia Lacy

Mayor Whalen requested to remove Item 4 Employment Wellness Policy and bring back at a later time.

Mayor Whalen stated if there is time, the Council will continue to Item 5 St. Bonifacius Watermain Interconnect Update. If not it will move to Council Meeting under staff reports.

2) 2024 Budget Discussion

Finance Director, Grimm said from the discussion on the August 7th, 2023 Worksession Meeting there was a consensus to further discuss 14.60% as a preliminary levy to adopt for 2024.

- Potential Draft Levy Options
- Proposed Debt
- Proposed Timeline of Upcoming Budget Meeting/Actions Steps

Finance Director, Grimm also discussed how to utilize the \$372,000 one-time Public Safety money funded by the State. There was also discussion about how to improve the general fund balance and the impact that has on the general fund levy.

Grimm stated the City could experience a surplus with building permit revenue and Drug Task Force money in 2023.

Mayor Whalen asked about the additional capital improvement projects for the Police. Future Police CIP projects were discussed.

City Administrator Kruggel commented on options for gun range and other capital expenditures.

Vickery had a question about the public use requirement of the gun range. Falls

clarified that if the space is funded with taxpayer dollars, there is a requirement that a public use associated with the gun range.

Director of Public Safety Paul Falls discussed the ongoing gun range project and the potential costs and requirements associated with this project. Falls also discussed alternate uses for the space such as various law enforcement training. The training use does not have the same public use requirement as the gun range.

The consensus of the Council was that the most beneficial use investment for the gun range space would be to utilize it as a training facility for our officers.

Reffkin asked what other expenditures are on the Police CIP. Falls clarified that the majority of those costs are associated with squad car purchases and equipment for the SWAT team.

Whalen clarified that even after the preliminary general fund levy is certified by the end of September, the Council is able to make changes to be budget before final approval in December.

There was discussion about the property tax base and how it is distributed amongst properties.

Vickery asked if there had been discussion about what to expect in 2025. Grimm stated that the salary adjustments in 2025 will be much more manageable, as the union contracts are settled. The remaining large impact items would be road projects and various equipment, and the Council's direction on the general fund balance based on surplus.

Council directed staff to bring back the preliminary levy at 14.6% as presented to the September 6, 2023 meeting.

3) 10-Year CIP Review

Director of Public Works, Peters gave an overview of the 10-year CIP Plan. Highlights included:

- The purpose of the CIP is to help look at future road needs, monetary amounts, and cost estimates for the projects.
- This will be funded by the General Fund.
- In 2024, there are planned maintenance projects for mill and overlays.
- In 2025, there are plans for full depth reclamation, which are assessable projects.
- In 2026, there are plans for large road projects which would require bonding.
- Staff is seeking Council's input and direction for future road projects and maintenance projects included in the CIP.

Peters discussed the consequences of waiting to do maintenance projects to extend the life of the roads before it requires a full depth reconstruction or reclamation.

Whalen stated that there should be discussion about the assessment policy prior to the 2025 proposed road projects. It was also requested that the process for the 2025 road projects begin in spring 2024.

Kruggel discussed Water Fund and the impact of the future project costs. There was discussion about the future water treatment facility.

There was discussion about road eligibility for MSA funding.

Council directed Peters to proceed with the proposed 2024-2025 projects in the 10-Year road CIP.

4) ~~Employment Wellness Policy~~

5) St Bonifacius Watermain Interconnect Update

Kruggel provided an update on the St. Bonifacius Watermain Interconnect:

Highlights included:

- St. Bonifacius is proceeding with the water interconnect meter.
- The cost estimate is \$44,000 for one meter, and with the additional costs for engineering, the total would be approximately \$55,000.
- There will be an agreement between parties which will include the terms and conditions of the interconnect uses.
- The City's portion would be 50% funded by the water fund.

Kruggel provided two additional updates:

- Many cities are passing ordinances regarding use of cannabis in public spaces.

The Council directed staff to bring this back for discussion at a future meeting.

- The Mediacom Franchise Agreement will be ready for discussion and approval in September. The majority of the revisions are to clean up the old agreement and remove provisions that are no longer relevant.

6) Adjourn

Motion by Reffkin, seconded by Vickery to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed 4-0. Absent: Lacy

Mayor Whalen adjourned the meeting at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Boll
Deputy, City Clerk