

- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Windschitl at 7 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Roll call was taken. Present: Councilmembers Schulz, Boe, Geisler, and Mayor Windschitl.
Absent: Councilmember Rohe

Also Present: Kevin Ringwald, Community Development Director; Liz Hanson, City Planner; Luke Melchert, City Attorney; Nate Kabat, Assistant Administrator; Matt Clark, City Engineer; and Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator.

4. Adopt the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Boe, second by Councilmember Geisler to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

5. Visitor

5.A. Proclamation - Mt. Olivet Rolling Acres

Mayor Windschitl read the proclamation in recognition of National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week.

5.B. Stop Sign Discussion

Kristina Mahler, 4025 Grand Chevalle Parkway, presented some photos to the Council and requested that stop signs be added at two intersections in her neighborhood.

Mayor Windschitl inquired what Staff's recommendation is regarding this.

City Administrator Podhradsky explained that City Engineer Clark, Public Works Superintendent Jung, and patrol have looked at this. He stated that they did not find an issue with speed, and that it does not meet the City's current warrant for stop signs, primarily because it would be stopping traffic on the through street. He noted from a technical standpoint, stop signs do not affect speed and if they are placed where they do not expect them to be, drivers sometimes miss them.

Mayor Windschitl commented that he was concerned about placing stop signs in residential areas where drivers may not expect them.

Ms. Mahler explained that this is not a street non-residents frequent and that the homeowner's association board would let residents know of the addition of the stop signs.

Mayor Windschitl inquired if conversations regarding the issue have occurred with the association board.

Ms. Mahler stated that they had.

Mayor Windschitl explained that he is concerned about adding stop signs where drivers often do not see a lot of pedestrian crossings and therefore become negligent about stopping there in the future.

Ms. Mahler noted that there are five association boards in the neighborhood and that they do not always listen to communication amongst each other. She asked what it would hurt by putting the stop signs in.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated that it could cause issues in that pedestrians could have a false expectation that a driver would stop and they do not. He explained that street signs are put in very deliberate places because psychologically, that is where people expect to see them when they are driving and are more likely to stop. He reiterated that putting stop signs up where they are not expected could create a false of security for pedestrians.

Ms. Mahler commented that she did not think anyone on their street would feel that way considering the way people have been driving around there and how they have been training their children. She noted that to her, it makes more sense increasing the chance that someone will stop rather than not having anything there at all.

Councilmember Schulz inquired if there was more of an issue with northbound versus southbound traffic.

Ms. Mahler stated that it is from both directions and that some people stop at these intersections right now because they seem to think they are supposed to do so.

Councilmember Schulz asked if they could do a reduced speed instead.

City Administrator Podhradsky explained they cannot do a reduced speed there as they are restricted to 30mph roads from State Statute. He noted that an officer did not find that anyone was exceeding the speed; he stated that since it is a residential area, it just feels excessive to the neighborhood.

Ms. Mahler mentioned that it has caused some animosity among neighbors as they address those driving inappropriately there.

Councilmember Geisler commented that this same issue exists in her neighborhood. She stated that it seems to be an issue when there is a long stretch of road.

Ms. Mahler agreed and explained that she will be a squeaky wheel until this gets fixed as they are worried about the kids in the neighborhood.

Mayor Windschitl reiterated that the officer did not find any speed exceedance there but that due to the residential use, the perception that the speeds are higher exists.

City Administrator Podhradsky explained the potential process with this issue going forward for the Council.

Ms. Mahler commented that they have a petition from the neighborhood with 82 signatures as of today.

Mayor Windschitl confirmed that Staff received that petition and then explained that the Council cannot act on a visitor presentation, but can request the issue be brought forward to a later date.

Councilmember Schulz stated that his recommendation would be to take the next step and look at it more closely and move forward from there.

Councilmember Geisler asked what a speed study entails.

City Administrator Podhradsky provided further detail regarding the process for a speed study.

Mayor Windschitl inquired if construction traffic occurs in the morning and evening.

Ms. Mahler explained that construction traffic only accounts for about 25% of the issue, and that delivery trucks and drivers from the neighborhood are the bigger issue.

Councilmember Boe asked if the south intersection is worse than the other one.

Ms. Mahler stated that they both have their own issues.

Mayor Windschitl asked if there was a marked crosswalk at the south intersection.

Ms. Mahler explained that it is not marked and is just an implied crosswalk. She noted that many families and kids cross there to get to the sidewalk on the other side that leads to the park. She also mentioned that a family with a special needs child lives right by the north intersection, have asked the City for special needs signage, and have gotten no response.

Mayor Windschitl asked if the City puts up special needs signage.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated that he thinks they can but cannot think of where they have done it yet.

Mayor Windschitl asked for further information about what kind of signage is being requested.

Ms. Mahler stated that she is just passing on a message and is not sure.

Councilmember Schulz suggested that City Administrator Podhradsky bring something back to the Council on this issue.

The Council agreed.

6. Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Geisler, second by Councilmember Boe to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2018 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Boe pointed out to City Administrator Podhradsky that it would be good to have the vote ratio noted with each motion.

Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Schulz, second by Councilmember Boe to approve the Consent Agenda Items A through B:

- A. Establish a Public Hearing to Consider Approval of the Proposed 2019 Chaska Downtown Special Services District (SSD) Operating Plan and Budget and Imposition of Service Charges

Motion to set the public hearing for October 15, 2018, to review and approve the proposed SSD 2019 operating plan, budget, and service charges, and direct staff to give notice of the public hearing.

- B. Adopt Resolution 2018-120, Solicitor Permit for Edward Jones, Financial Consultants
Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-120, approving Solicitor Permit No. SOL.18-68 for Marianne J. Laurent of Edward Jones, 464 Second Street, Suite 209, Excelsior, Minnesota, 55331, effective September 10, 2018, through December 31, 2018.

Motion carried.

8. Action Items

8.A. Accept the Final 2018 Pay Classification Study Results and Approve Implementation

City Administrator Podhradsky presented the item to the Council.

Mayor Windschitl inquired when the last time a Pay Classification Study was done.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated that it was last done in 1986. He explained that maintenance has been done on it over the years, but Staff really wants to use this as a springboard so that the City has a set-in-place process for how to deal with this going forward.

Assistant Administrator Kabat explained that the performance reviews will not only provide feedback to the employee but will also look at the job description and see if the employee's role has changed over the year.

Councilmember Geisler commented that it is difficult to give a performance review if there is not a job description to review that performance against. She also noted that employees that have been working here for years can sometimes not be getting paid what a new person coming in is being paid because their raises over the years did not quite catch up to what the market is.

City Administrator Podhradsky agreed and stated that there are all kinds of issues that can occur with a pay classification that is not up to date. He stated that he feels really good with what is being put down here.

Mayor Windschitl asked if there were budgetary effects at all.

City Administrator Podhradsky replied that they were not huge, maybe between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for the entire organization.

Mayor Windschitl stated that this was obviously long overdue, but someone has been keeping good track of things over the years.

Councilmember Boe noted that he was pleased that given the length of time since this was done, how close they were and that there is very little financial impact to implement this.

Motion by Councilmember Geisler, second by Councilmember Schulz to accept the 2018 Compensation Study results and approve implementation.

Councilmember Boe inquired if this will be implemented with how the study came back or if any adjustments were made.

City Administrator Podhradsky explained that it went through iterative drafts until it reached a point where it feels comfortable from the department, employee, and administration point of view.

Motion carried.

8.B. Presentation of Community Survey Results

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council.

Peter Leatherman, with Morris Leatherman Company, presented the item to the Council.

Councilmember Boe asked what percent answer and participate versus do not.

Mr. Leatherman stated that the overall non-response rate on this was 5.5% and explained that due to the length of the survey, over half of the survey calls were done by appointment. He then went on with the survey results.

City Administrator Podhradsky noted that Staff has internally ranked street repair and maintenance as an area that needs improvement.

Mr. Leatherman stated that the survey results validate that decision. He then continued his presentation of the survey results.

City Administrator Podhradsky commented that it is interesting that people know that the streets take more of a beating and there is more pollution, but the still did not want to do an organized garbage collection.

Mayor Windschitl noted that there are not many local haulers left. He stated that residents would get better customer service calling the City versus calling one of the big haulers.

Mr. Leatherman continued with the survey results.

The Council commented that having a single hauler would be nice, but the results showed the residents are not ready for that.

Mr. Leatherman commented that it is something that warrants conversation.

Mayor Windschitl stated that it is nice to get these results and to see how Chaska sits in the metro area with its ratings. He went on to say that it indicates all the hard work is starting to show and pay off.

Mr. Leatherman agreed and mentioned that the results do validate decisions that were made in the past.

Mayor Windschitl inquired if they will receive any documentation that shows that Chaska rates in the top five cities in the metro, as it would be nice to advertise and mention during employee appreciation events, etc.

Mr. Leatherman explained that this will be included in the summary the City receives from Morris Leatherman Company.

Mr. Leatherman commented that he would be happy to come and share a 15-minute summary presentation with staff if desired.

City Administrator Podhradsky noted that an internal survey would not have been credible and that doing it through Morris Leatherman Company allows the results to speak for themselves.

The Council went on to discuss the benefits of seeing these results.

Councilmember Boe thanked Mr. Leatherman for taking time to describe the nuances and give the comparisons to other cities; he felt it was very helpful.

City Attorney Melchert commented that he thought that having good schools would have ranked higher in the question asking what the people liked about the City of Chaska.

Mr. Leatherman explained that they tell survey participants that they have been retained by the City to conduct this survey, which then tends to cause them to be thinking separately between "city" and "schools". He added that some cities delve deeper into understanding the quality of life aspects, which would include quality of schools, public safety etc., and those two are always at the top of the survey results. He noted that 61% of survey respondents were empty nesters, and reiterated that they code the first response of respondents for the survey.

Councilmember Schulz commented that these results were very interesting and there was a lot of information.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated that is why they have utilized Morris Leatherman Company over the years, because of their quality of work and depth of information. He pointed out that reason they do this survey is to understand what people's perceptions are, what the City needs to improve and focus upon, and both the perception and analytical results are equally important in taking steps to implement future planning.

Councilmember Geisler asked where they get the 400 people that represent a good cross-section of the City.

Mr. Leatherman explained how that process is conducted.

City Administrator Podhradsky described the next course of action to what Mr. Leatherman presented tonight.

The Council thanked Mr. Leatherman for his work.

9. Bills

Motion by Councilmember Schulz, second by Councilmember Boe to approve the bills as presented. Roll call was taken. Voting aye: Councilmembers Schulz, Boe, Geisler, and Mayor Windschitl. Voting nay: None
Motion carried.

10. Other Business

10.A. City Administrator's Report

10.A.i. Administrator's Bi-Weekly Report

10.B. Other Meeting Minutes

10.B.i. Receive the Chaska Park Board Minutes from August 13, 2018

Councilmember Geisler:

- Commented that she saw Hwy 41 could potentially open tomorrow evening. She noted how great of a job they have done and how much quicker this took than she thought it would.
- Wished Councilmember Boe Happy Birthday.
- Noted there will be an Open House for the public to review the 2040 Comprehensive Plan on Thursday, September 13 from 6-7:30 PM. City Administrator Podhradsky gave further detail on the Parks and Recreation section of the Comprehensive Plan and what the next steps are after the Open House.

Councilmember Boe:

- Noted the Guardian Angels Fall Festival coincides with the Downtown Block Party of Saturday, September 29th.
- Mentioned he was pleased to hear Chaska won the taste test for the Best Tasting Water in Minnesota at the State Fair.
- Asked City Administrator Podhradsky for an update on Dunkin Donuts. City Administrator Podhradsky provided the details on the schedule for that project.

Councilmember Schulz:

- Inquired if there is a target date for completion for Veteran's Park. City Administrator Podhradsky stated that it should be done at the beginning of October. He noted that they are looking to dedicate it on Veteran's Day, and are in discussions about how to utilize the challenge coins.
- Recognized all involved in Curling Night in America and commented that it was a wonderful event.

Assistant Administrator Kabat:

- Noted that the Chaska Fire Explorers took third place in competition at the State Fair. Mayor Windschitl mentioned that this is a nice feeder program into the Fire Department.
- Commented that the Formacoat site is now fully cleared. Councilmember Boe inquired if they will occupy the east or west half of that site. Assistant Administrator Kabat replied that they will be on the west half of the site. Mayor Windschitl asked if Formacoat is going to put a shovel in soon. City Administrator Podhradsky explained that their financing for the building is just finishing up.

City Administrator Podhradsky:

- Noted that former attorney Julius Smith passed away today. The Council expressed their condolences.
- Reminded the Council there is no work session next week but there is a Council Meeting.

- Gave further detail on the Curling Center High Performance Teams that was mentioned in his biweekly report. Councilmember Schulz pointed out that even having these conversations with US Curling is a huge compliment. Councilmember Geisler noted that she spoke with Matt Hamilton and he had high compliments regarding the facility. City Administrator Podhradsky mentioned that the huge crowd on a weeknight was impressive.

Mayor Windschitl:

- Noted that there was a grand opening for Dr. Bhatti's new surgery center.
- Mentioned that the Fire Department had their open house tonight.
- Informed City Administrator Podhradsky that the tree lights in the boulevard on County Road 61 are not working. City Administrator Podhradsky stated he will look in to that.
- Commented that they were starting to lay the granite rings out at Veteran's Park and noted the progress with the pavilion and archery range. City Administrator Podhradsky noted that the Legion is very serious about calling it a service plaza as opposed to a memorial.
- Noted that they are moving dirt up at the Chipotle site.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Boe, second by Councilmember Geisler to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm.

Motion carried.