

**Minutes
City of Minnetonka
City Council Study Session
Monday, June 29, 2020**

Council Present: Councilmembers Deb Calvert, Bradley Schaeppi, Kissy Coakley, Brian Kirk, Rebecca Schack, Susan Carter, and Mayor Brad Wiersum

Staff: Geralyn Barone, Mike Funk, Corrine Heine, Julie Wischnack, Loren Gordon, Drew Ingvalson, Leslie Yetka, Hannibal Hayes, Susan Thomas, Scott Boerboom, Will Manchester

Wiersum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Report from City Manager & Council Members

Barone reported the city is expected to receive \$4 million in funding from the CARES Act. She also reported the city will allow the emergency ordinance regarding quarantine for emergency service providers to expire because there have not been any requests for use of the provision. Additionally, solicitor permits will now begin being accepted again. Lastly, Barone reported City Hall will re-open to the public on Monday, July 6, and that City Hall will be closed on Friday, July 3.

Schack reported on her experience at the virtual League of Minnesota Cities annual meeting, and she commended Wiersum for being elected President of the League of Minnesota Cities.

Schaeppi also commended Wiersum's election. Additionally, he expressed appreciation for the city working with the Friends of Lone Lake Park regarding wording of the multi-use trail policy, and stated lack of use of masks in indoor public spaces has continued to be an issue.

Kirk asked whether the city could pass an ordinance requiring residents to wear masks in public, and thanked the Charter Commission for their ongoing work on Ranked Choice Voting. Wiersum stated the use of masks in public is important, but enforcement of a city mask ordinance could be an issue. He deferred to staff on this.

Calvert thanked the Charter Commission and staff for their ongoing work on Ranked Choice Voting. She stated businesses may feel they cannot require masks when we as a city do not require masks.

Carter congratulated Wiersum for his election to the League of Minnesota Cities.

Coakley noted she will be leading a virtual panel discussion on racial equity and diversity.

Wiersum reported on the annual League of Minnesota Cities meeting, and stated race and equity are important issues to the city.

2. Sustainability Action Options

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Barone noted council asked to have this issue come forward at a study session, and that this is the next step before deciding whether to establish a Sustainability Commission.

Wischnack introduced the item and the presenting staff, City Planner Loren Gordon and Planner Drew Ingvalson.

Gordon summarized previous actions and discussions on the issue of sustainability, including the existing city initiatives.

Ingvalson summarized Hennepin County's proposed Climate Action Plan, as well as the climate action plans of comparable cities in the Twin Cities area.

Wischnack provided an overview of each of the sustainability action options available to the city and the associated costs. She stated staff recommends adopting an Energy Action Plan and establishing a Sustainability Commission. She then gave a tentative overview of the membership composition of a Sustainability Commission and how it would serve the city council.

The group then discussed the membership of such a commission, the role of student members, whether it should be interdisciplinary, and its role in relation to the city council. Wischnack noted the scope of work that can be done by the commission is limited, due to statutory guidelines, and indicated a commission of more than nine members could be difficult to manage. Barone added that the appointment process should remain consistent with city process. Carter suggested the city should also be consistent with its policy on the role of student commissioners.

3. Tree Protection Ordinance Update

Wischnack gave a presentation on the proposed ordinance update, while providing background on the ordinance drafting process.

Yetka provided an overview of the threats to the city's trees.

Thomas summarized the history of this ordinance and the update processes it has gone through.

Yetka and Thomas then outlined each of the updates to the ordinance.

Council then provided comments and feedback.

4. Diversity and Inclusion Update

Barone gave a report on city updates pertaining to diversity and inclusion, then outlined the next steps in the process

The council offered their comments and agreed that the issue should be focused on at a future study session meeting. It was also agreed that public comment should be solicited to decide how to improve in these areas, and what actions to take.

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Barone thanked council for the feedback and invited them to send their ideas via emails.

5. Adjournment

Wiersum adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyle Salage
Elections Specialist