

**Minutes
City of Minnetonka
City Council Study Session
Monday, August 24, 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, Darin Nelson, Joel Merry, Julie Wischnack, Kelly O'Dea, Susan Thomas, Carol Hejlstone, Scott Boerboom, John Vance, Will Manchester

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

1. Report from City Manager & Council Members

Barone provided updates regarding the Strategic Planning Committee, and reported on the upcoming schedule for the city council.

Coakley reported on the August 18 she attended the Minnetonka Collective Community Engagement session. She noted information gathered from this session will be presented to the council at a future meeting.

Carter reported some residents have received automated text messages regarding the Ranked Choice Voting ballot question, and stated they were concerned the city was selling the contact information of residents to outside organizations.

Barone indicated the city does collect information about property owners through utilities, but this information is not sold or shared with third parties. She reminded residents to look for the city logo on all communications, as this is an indicator it has come directly from the city. She explained to council that the city only uses its official social media and communications channels.

Schaeppi shared a recent experience with a Ward 3 resident, and encouraged city residents to speak up when they hear the use of language that is offensive to any race, religion, or other group of people. He then commented on the need for the city's ongoing race and equity discussions. Lastly, Schaeppi stated he hopes the city and the residents of the Lone Lake area can soon reach an agreement on the Lone Lake Park bike trail project.

Calvert reported on the League of Minnesota Cities' recent activities pertaining to race and equity.

Wiersum also reported on the League of Minnesota Cities' recent activities, including its race and equity work.

2. Sustainability Action Options

Barone introduced the proposed budget, noting the preliminary tax levy would increase

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by 3.5% and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy would increase by \$75,000. Barone then highlighted the impacts of COVID-19 on the city's budget both in 2020 and in the proposed 2021 budget.

Barone gave an overview of the key points from the departmental budgets for Administration, Police, Fire, Public Works, and Community Development. Council offered questions and comments on these categories of the budget.

Funk gave an overview of the proposed staffing additions incorporated in the budget.

Kirk requested more information on the metrics the city uses to track needs and expected growth for staffing. Barone indicated such metrics could be discussed with the council at the Sept. 21 meeting.

The council then discussed the proposed allotment of \$100,000 towards diversity and inclusion. Barone clarified this amount was based off the estimated cost of hiring a full-time staff person dedicated to diversity and inclusion efforts. Council directed staff to come up with an alternative budget proposal in which the amount dedicated to diversity and inclusion is raised to \$150,000 without bringing the levy increase above 3.5%.

Barone then reported on cable franchise fees, budget increases related to inflation, budgeted park projects, and the proposed HRA levy increase.

Nelson then gave an overview of Local Government Assistance, and explained why the city does not receive any.

3. Adjournment

Wiersum adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Salage
Elections Specialist