

**WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

**OPEN MEETING**

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Krachmer at 5:29 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Mike Krachmer and Council Members Erik Goebel, Steve Rogers, Kelly Jozwowski, and Katherine Doll Kanne. The following member was absent: none.

Also present were: City Administrator, Kevin Watson; Assistant City Administrator, Kaylin Clement; Planning/Community Development Director, Nolan Wall; Public Works Director, Jim Hauth; Fire Chief, Chris Hearnden; and Deputy Clerk, Phillip Lundquist.

**OTHER STAFF ITEMS**

City Center parcel discussion update from meeting with parcel owner's. Kohler Trail project provided by Public Works Director Hauth. Letters went out to residents who would like to meet with Hauth, Ousky, and an SEH representative. Five have taken that offer and staff is asking if Council gets resident requests/concerns/questions to take advantage of those meetings. Pink stakes show right-of-way/property bounds, not proposed trail.

**457 BENEFITS RECOMMENDATION (ASST. ADMINISTRATOR CLEMENT)**

Staff advanced idea for a 457 match program. Numbers in the memo are reflective of if all 32 full-time staff members took advantage of the plan. Neighboring cities offer similar programs, some do fixed amounts rather than percentages, staff can find the full benefit that other cities give. Tracking on the impact on retention is a possibility. Request to staff for more specific impacts on the budget and levy.

**PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS MASTER PLAN CONSULTANT SELECTION RECOMMENDATION (ASST. ADMINISTRATOR CLEMENT)**

Five companies were solicited for the Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan, and three submitted proposals. Interviews of the three companies were completed by staff and Council Members Doll Kanne and Jozwowski. LHB is the company that was recommended after the interviews. Staff will get contract to bring to Council.

**FIRE FACILITY UPDATE (CHIEF HEARDEN)**

Facility Study was complete and current conditions provided in memo and what the current needs. A survey has been sent to firefighters, before the conceptual plan is completed by the survey company. A presentation is likely for the upcoming Council meeting. Budgeting would follow to be submitted for state bonding. Discussion of ADA accessibility. No financial obligation needed at this stage of the process.

**NO PARKING ON COUNTY ROAD D COURT (PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR HAUTH)**

MNDOT reached out in August to request no parking signs to gain access to the snow storage facility. Signs would be on the north side of that road. Maplewood saw no problems. City can determine exact dates.

**CANNABIS PUBLIC USE DISCUSSION (ADMINISTRATOR WATSON)**

42 County had reached out if there was interest in a county-wide ban on public space use of cannabis,  
43 and the county is not moving forward. A sample ordinance is provided. Question of outright ban of  
44 smoking. Interest in making broad enough to cover all types of smoking.

45 **FUTURE COUNCIL REQUESTS**

46 Discussion of the Council Scarecrow for the City competition. Council Member Rogers authorized  
47 to design.

48 Discussion of how the City may communicate extreme weather (heat, cold, air quality) alerts as a  
49 workshop item. Health and Public Safety Commission will discuss.

50 **ADJOURN**

51 Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin Watson, City Administrator