

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Gunderson at 5:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, Council Members: Greg Urban, Craig Johnson, Patricia Youker and Bob Morse. The following member was absent: None.

Also present were: City Administrator Kevin Watson, Assistant City Administrator Tim Sandvik, Planning/Community Development Director Nolan Wall, Public Works Director Jesse Farrell, Finance Director Bob Sundberg, Fire Chief Ed Leier, City Attorney Erich Hartman and Caroline Bell Beckman, and Deputy City Clerk Peggy Aho.

Others present were: Leanne Stefaniak and Mike Cashill, At Home, Pete Keely, AIA, Collage Architects, Ling Becker, Ramsey County Workforce Director and Ramsey County Commissioner Fretham.

1. At Home Apartments – Exterior Building Materials Discussion

City Administrator Watson noted that he had talked to Leanna Stefaniak, At Home who indicated that they are still working through the design process. Stefaniak said it would be helpful to get feedback from the Council. Stefaniak said it would be helpful to get feedback from the Council. Pete Keely, AIA, Collage Architects, showed changes they have made to the exterior design on the townhomes and apartment building and said that they would welcome feedback from the Council. Keely handed out pictures of a revised site plan which included information on proposed trails and pictures of Option A and B for the townhomes and apartment showing different exterior designs. Mayor Gunderson said she likes the mix of A and B on the townhomes. Mike Cashill, At Home, said they are planning on putting in a berm along McMenemy about 5 feet in height and along Highway 96 about 9 feet in height. The Council also reviewed access to the trail and access to the property.

2. Presentation – 2019 Year in Review by Fire Department

Ed Leier, Fire Chief, presented the Fire Departments Annual Report for 2019. He noted that 2019 was a banner year and that they had 1,487 calls. Leier reviewed the total calls by type (i.e., emergency medical services, good intent call, service call, false alarm & false call, hazardous conditions, and fire)

He noted that they are seeing an increase in calls to single-family residences that are being converted to assisted living facilities with less than 5 patients. He noted that one address in the City has had 26 calls for help. Nine of those ended in a transport to the hospital, 17 were to help the patient that had fallen get up. He said that the Department has discussed this with the owner and pointed out to them that if the home had the proper equipment they could assist their clients without the help of the Fire Department. Leier noted that the City could look at an ordinance regarding excessive use of services. City Administrator

Watson said that the City may need to explore some policies on excessive use of emergency services.

City Council Member Johnson asked that Leier come back with a proposal for the businesses that have excessive services. Leier noted that the City does have ordinance that allows us to charge those facilities that don't pay taxes. Nonprofits such as Merrick because it is a tax free corporation, but doesn't charge if the business pays property taxes.

Council Member Urban stated that he has brought up from time to time that the City's response to calls is different than other cities. He said that at some point he would like to have a discussion at a Workshop about how we respond to calls and how neighboring communities respond. He said the Council should understand how we use our resources in an efficient manner. Council Member Morse asked if Leier has any idea how the surrounding areas compare with ours based on population.

Leier noted that the Department does have a plan in place regarding the pandemic flu. They all have personal protective equipment, and a video showing how to respond and put on gear.

3. Presentation by Ramsey County Director of Workforce Solutions Ling Becker

Ling Becker, Ramsey County Workforce Director, gave a presentation on Workforce Development. She noted that the Ramsey County Workforce Solutions has 80 employees and provides workforce services and job training to businesses and residents of Ramsey County. They serve over 11,000 job seekers each year. She reviewed the various services they provide such as Business Services, Diversionary Work Program (DWP), Minnesota Family Investment Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult Program, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and State Dislocated Worker Program, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and State Youth Program, Competitive Grand Funded Programs, Youth at Work, and Outreach to Schools.

4. Discussion of JetVac Truck Purchase

Public Works Director/City Engineer Farrell asked if the Council supports the Public Works Departments purchase of the JetVac. All responded yes. Farrell noted that he is available all week for any questions.

He noted that the State's contract runs out the end of the month and that the timing of this purchase is important. He said that the approval to purchase the JetVac Truck will be on the February 18th Council agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator