

**WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
OCTOBER 5, 2021**

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 Gunderson, and Council Members Greg Urban, Patricia Youker, Steve Rogers and Erik Goebel. The following member was absent: None.

Also present were: Planning/Community Development Director, Nolan Wall; Assistant City Administrator, Tim Sandvik; City Engineer/Public Works Director, Jesse Farrell; Fire Chief Chris Hearden; and Deputy Clerk, Peggy Aho.

**1. Community Survey.**

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik noted that the City has worked with the Morris Leatherman in the past to conduct a community survey, as recently as 2016. There is a value in statistical significance and provides a more complete understanding that results that the City can achieve online. There is a value in the efficiency and getting feedback online, but a comprehensive Community Survey gives the Council and residents more reliable feedback. In 2019, the Council went through the goal setting session and engaged communication was highlighted. The Council made it a priority in 2020, allocated some dollars and then in 2020 the Community Engagement Committee was formed and now they are moving to do a formal survey in 2021. Sandvik said that using staff started by using the 2016 survey as a template, and by taking feedback from Council Members and City staff, the facilitator will go through the DRAFT survey line by line.

Mayor Gunderson thanked the Council for taking time to look through the questions. She said that she thinks it is pretty comprehensive. She asked when the survey will go live. Sandvik said as soon as the Council is comfortable with the release of it, or in the coming weeks.

Council Member Rogers asked what social media advertising is planned for this. Sandvik said that we will alert residents of this being in the field through all normal communication channels.

Peter Ledermann, Morris Lederman Company, asked if anyone has questions about process. Ledermann went through the questions on the preliminary survey draft. He noted that some of the questions were on the previous survey. The survey will take about 25 - 40 minutes. Results should be available about 4 to 5 weeks after they complete it.

**2. Senator Isaacson**

Introductions were made.

Senator Isaacson and Dennis Gillis attended the meeting to update the Council and ask what the City needs and what he might be able to do for the City's infrastructure needs.

Senator noted that he is a lead on redistricting and talked about the process of redistricting and what a bonding bill may look like. He talked about infrastructure and earmarks. He said there is a possible special session regarding funds for front line workers.

Council Member Rogers asked about LGA, said he doesn't have a problem with what LGA does it makes sense, but it seems that when these advisory groups get together, and decide who gets the money, but it's the groups who get on the advisory group who sometimes get the funds. He asked how we get someone on the advisory group?

Isaacson has been in touch with the LMC and Little Canada and found out the pre-1940s housing is a heavy weight in the formula. They are looking at redoing the out of date model and hopeful that we will see some changes. He encouraged people to contact the League of MN Cities.

Mayor Gunderson said that she has been reading up on the LGA. She understands why we need to be at the table. She said that if there is anything we can do, or Isaacson could support us with, she would appreciate it. Isaacson said that he will find a way to get a bill out there that they won't consider 1940's housing in consideration.

Isaacson said he would like to talk about BRT. He asked if anyone is interested in having BRT in the City. Gunderson said a problem with the BRT is that there are no connections to it in the City.

He said that his staff will put a list of bonding bill ideas together and then have it for the Council. Sandvik said that City staff can put a list of possible projects together.

Isaacson said that the City should be concerned about Gem Lake's water pollution. He said he will send the information about the public meeting next week/virtually. He said they can't tell where the contamination is coming from.

Council Member Goebel said that he is hearing from a lot of people about changing speed limits on area roads to 20 mph. Isaacson said that this is something that the legislative would deal with. He said he can check in with Dibble.

Isaacson talked about broadband and catalytic convertors. He said to let him know what needs the City may have over the next couple years, and he can see if he can get bonding.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin Watson, City Administrator