

THE MINUTES OF THE HIBBING CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

Wednesday February 7, 2024

TIME AND PLACE: A Hibbing City Council Workshop Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 in the City Hall Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pete Hyduke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Present at roll call Mayor Pete Hyduke, Councilor James Bayliss, Councilor Justin Fosso, Councilor Jay Hildenbrand, Councilor Jennifer Hoffman Saccoman, Councilor John Schweiberger and Councilor Chris Whitney. Also present were City Administrator Greg Pruszinske, City Clerk-Deputy Administrator Candie Seppala, Treasurer-Finance Director Sheena Mulner, City Attorney Andy Borland, City Engineer Jesse Story and Chief of Police Steve Estey.

DISCUSSIONS TO INCLUDE:

Staffing

DISCUSSION: Chief of Police Steve Estey spoke in depth about the staffing issues his department is facing, and some of the possible solutions to alleviate the problem. Chief of Police Estey explained that he thinks some of the recent and upcoming changes i.e. a good contract for the officers, new squad program, a new public safety building all will help the situation; he also thinks bringing back the Sergeant position will make a difference. Chief of Police Estey went over in detail the costs of losing an officer versus the increased cost of bringing back the Sergeant position. There was a lengthy discussion between Councilors and City Staff regarding the staffing issues.

Highway 169 Corridor

DISCUSSION: City Engineer Jesse Story explained that MnDOT is doing a Highway 169 Corridor study from the existing roundabout to 13th Street East. Alex Peritz, MnDOT's Project Manager went over in detail the information in the packets that the Councilors were given. There was a lengthy discussion between Councilors, City Staff and Mr. Peritz regarding the Hwy 169 Corridor.

National Guard Armory

DISCUSSION: Community Development Director Betsy Olivanti spoke about a conversation she and City Administrator Greg Pruszinske had with the gentleman in charge of planning for the State of MN National Guard Armory, and he stated that they had a study completed that said they should divest of their Hibbing Armory location and concentrate in their

Chisholm Armory location. There was a discussion between Councilors and City Staff regarding this topic.

Abel Chiropractic Building

DISCUSSION: Community Development Director Olivanti spoke about the potential interest in purchasing the tax forfeited Abel Chiropractic Property for redevelopment. Community Development Director Olivanti went over what that process could look like, because St. Louis County will only sell a blighted property for \$500 to the City. There was a discussion between Councilors and City Staff regarding this topic.

4th Avenue East Property

DISCUSSION: City Services Director Nick Arola spoke about the email they received regarding the property located at 2301 4th Ave. East; the property owners notified the City that they are interested in selling their property and would like to give the City first notice that they want to sell. There was some discussion between Councilors and City Staff regarding the City purchasing additional properties on 4th Avenue East.

Other Additional Issues/Concerns for discussion:

- **Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities**

DISCUSSION: City Administrator Pruszinske spoke briefly about the meeting they had with the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. There was a short discussion between Councilors and City Staff regarding this topic.

- **Hibbing Area Transit**

DISCUSSION: City Administrator Pruszinske spoke about the most recent struggles of the Hibbing Area Transit, and what the future could potentially look like. Treasurer-Finance Director Sheena Mulner also spoke about the issues they have faced procuring busses. There was a short discussion between Councilors and City Staff regarding this topic.

- **Legislature Funding**

DISCUSSION: City Administrator Pruszinske and Fire Chief Erik Jankila spoke about equipment they would like to purchase using the funding received from the Legislature. There was a short discussion between Councilors and City Staff regarding this topic.

- **Boards and Commissions**

DISCUSSION: City Clerk-Deputy Administrator Candie Seppala went over the handout that was given to the Councilors regarding Applicants for the HEDA Board.

- **Golf Course**

DISCUSSION: Councilor Schweiberger asked about hole signs for the golf course; City Services Director Arola stated they have new hole signs for the golf course and they are in his office.

- **Property on Old 169**

DISCUSSION: Councilor Schweiberger asked if there was any new information on the Boundary Committee. City Attorney Andy Borland and City Administrator Pruszinske spoke briefly about forming a Boundary Committee. There was a short discussion between Councilors and City Staff regarding a Boundary Committee.

- **Jubilee Week Meeting**

DISCUSSION: Councilor Schweiberger asked about a date to get together to discuss the Jubilee Celebration; City Clerk-Deputy Administrator Seppala stated that they will set a date to meet and she will let the Council know.

- **Age to Age**

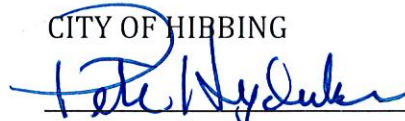
DISCUSSION: Mayor Hyduke spoke about Age to Age; Georgia Lane with Age to Age reached out and would like to meet. City Clerk-Deputy Administrator Seppala and City Administrator Pruszinske explained that Ms. Lane reached out to them as well, and there is a tentative meeting scheduled for February 14, 2024.

- **Spongey Moth**

DISCUSSION: Mayor Hyduke spoke about an email he received Danielle DeVito regarding information the Spongey Moth issue,

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Hyduke adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

CITY OF HIBBING


Pete Hyduke, Mayor

ATTEST:


Candie Seppala, City Clerk-Deputy Administrator