

THE MINUTES OF THE HIBBING CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday May 15, 2024

TIME AND PLACE: A Hibbing City Council Workshop Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 in the City Hall Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pete Hyduke called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Present at roll call Mayor Pete Hyduke, Councilor James Bayliss, Councilor Justin Fosso, Councilor Jay Hildenbrand, Councilor Jennifer Hoffman Saccoman 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 and City Engineer Jesse Story. Councilor John Schweiberger and Chief of Police Steve Estey were absent.

DISCUSSIONS TO INCLUDE:

BearWise Power Point Presentation

DISCUSSION: Jessica Holmes with the DNR Wildlife Division gave a Presentation on BearWise. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

Tree Assessment

DISCUSSION: Gail Nozal with Davey Resource Group went over the City's initial tree inventory results with the Council. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

Equipment

DISCUSSION: Fleet Manager Joe McKenney and City Services Director Nick Arola spoke about some additional equipment that they are looking to purchase using 2023 undesignated funds. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

Hibbing HRA Cobb Cook Place Funding

DISCUSSION: Community Development Director Betsy Olivanti and Jackie Prescott, Executive Director of Hibbing HRA spoke about possible funding options for the HRA Cobb Cook Place Project. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

Other Additional Issues/Concerns for discussion:

- **Raceway**

DISCUSSION: City Administrator Greg Pruszinske and Mike Olson with the Iron Range Racing Association spoke about the challenges the Raceway is facing. One of the challenges is the Raceways grader had the tranny go out; the City has two graders going to auction, would the City want to take one of the graders off of auction and make an agreement with the Raceway for that grader. There was some discussion between Mr. Olson, City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

- **Animal Shelter**

DISCUSSION: City Clerk-Deputy Administrator Candie Seppala spoke about emails and a letter that she received regarding violations at the Animal Shelter. City Clerk-Deputy Administrator Seppala went over the different violations. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

- **Data Requests**

DISCUSSION: City Clerk-Deputy Administrator Seppala gave an update regarding the continued data requests that keep coming through.

- **Superior National Forest**

DISCUSSION: Mayor Hyde spoke about an email that he received from John Eloranta Representative Stauber's Aid regarding the US Forest Services comment link regarding the Superior National Forest. There was a brief discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

- **Basketball Courts at Bennett Park**

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hoffman Saccoman stated that Bennett Park seems to be the popular place to play basketball. Councilor Hoffman Saccoman asked City Services Director Arola if the City has ever looked into adding another court; City Services Director Arola stated that he hasn't ever looked into it, he can look into pricing and the capital improvement plan for the future.

- **Tree Removals**

DISCUSSION: Councilor Hoffman Saccoman asked if the trees that were identified for removal include the trees that are causing sidewalks to heave; City Services Director Arola stated that they are working with the Davey Resource Group to identify the trees, but yes, some of them are causing sidewalk damage. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

- **City Entrance Signs**

DISCUSSION: City Services Director Arola spoke about the proposed new LED Entrance Signs that were in the Councilors packets; the signs would replace the sign on Hwy. 169 near Walmart and the sign by the courthouse as you come into town. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

- **Dump Trucks Leaving Seppi Pit**

DISCUSSION: City Engineer Jesse Story stated that there is not a designated haul route for trucks hauling from that pit; Councilor Fosso received calls that the truck traffic increased from just a few trucks hauling, to a large number of trucks hauling from the pit down Corey Tracts Rd. to 9th Ave. West.

- **Paving Update**

DISCUSSION: City Engineer Story stated that they started milling last week and are still milling, they started paving yesterday; City Engineer Story gave an update regarding some of the issues they have run into, and the process they have taken to correct them. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

- **Hibbing Public Transit**

DISCUSSION: Treasurer-Finance Director Sheena Mulner went over the handout Councilors received regarding the break-down of the numbers if the City handled Hibbing Public Transit In House. City Administrator Pruszinske also gave a brief update regarding the status of Hibbing Public Transit and a conversation he had with MDI. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

- **Sewer Lateral Ordinance Violation**

DISCUSSION: Treasurer-Finance Director Mulner spoke about a proposed letter that will be going out to residents who are in violation of the Sewer Lateral Ordinance; the letter states that they are not in compliance with the Ordinance and there will be a penalty of \$100 per month assessed to them until they are in compliance. There was some discussion between City Councilors and Staff regarding this topic.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pete Hyduke adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

CITY OF HIBBING



Justin Fosso, Acting Mayor

ATTEST:



Candie Seppala, City Clerk-Deputy Administrator