

Maple Grove City Council work session meeting

meeting minutes

February 21, 2023

Call to order

Pursuant to call and notice thereof, a work session meeting of the Maple Grove City Council was held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at the Maple Grove Government Center/Public Safety Facility, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Present were Mayor Mark Steffenson, Councilmembers Judy Hanson, Kristy Barnett, Kristy Janigo, and Rachelle Johnson. Present also was City Administrator Heidi Nelson, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ken Ashfeld, Eric Werner, Police Chief, Community and Economic Development Director Joe Hogeboom, Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director, Jupe Hale, Asst. Public Works Director/City Engineer, Transit Administrator Mike Opatz, and City Attorney Justin Templin.

Mayor Steffenson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Analysis of 2022 community survey results

Administrator Nelson reviewed the analysis of the 2022 community survey results with the City Council. She noted that the vast majority of the survey results were positive in nature and the city has maintained generally high ratings, above national benchmarks. She explained the data findings can be useful for City Council when making various decisions, which is especially helpful in areas that have been identified as being of concern or opportunities for improvement.

Administrator Nelson discussed three benchmark areas of concern in which Maple Grove responses were lower or much lower than the national benchmark ratings. She noted that water quality, particularly water hardness, was a concern of residents. She stated that participation in parks and recreation programs or activities in the last 12 months was lower, which might be attributed to lingering pandemic impact. She indicated that a third area of concern was with regard to the number of times in the last 12 months residents have watched a meeting of the City Council or Planning Commission on cable television or online. She discussed the increased communications efforts regarding the availability of online agendas as well as options for watching meetings online.

A few other areas of the survey that showed service rating declines from survey date to survey date were discussed including: street repair and maintenance, land use planning and zoning, city's social media, traffic enforcement, drinking water, code enforcement and crime prevention.

In response to the survey question regarding organized garbage collection, fifty-three percent of respondents strongly or somewhat supported the city exploring options to move away from private hauler garbage collection to an organized system of garbage collection.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ashfeld reviewed the information provided regarding the softening of city water. Council consensus was to pursue a feasibility study to understand the costs of softening as well as other treatment technology requirements/innovations for the city's water system. In addition, staff recommended a broader study of the Public Works campus for future water treatment, public works, fire department and police department facilities.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ashfeld reviewed the information regarding street repair and maintenance. Council discussed augmenting funding for the street maintenance program and opportunities to reduce congestion on Elm Creek Boulevard. Council consensus was to review options for congestion mitigation along Elm Creek Boulevard.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ashfeld reviewed information presented regarding organized garbage collection and City Attorney Templin reviewed the legal requirements of moving to a city organized collection system under state law. Council consensus was to not move forward with consideration of organized garbage collection and to provide information in the city communications regarding the issue and options for residents to coordinate private selection of haulers in neighborhoods.

Parks and Recreation Director Stifter reviewed the information regarding parks and recreation programming registrations and the trending of registrations to pre-pandemic levels. No follow-up action requested on this item.

**Fernbrook
recycling drop-off
site**

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ashfeld reviewed the history of the recycling drop-off site at CR30/Fernbrook Lane. He noted the Hennepin County transfer station is 4.3 miles from the city's Fernbrook site and offers more opportunities as well as being open more days than the city's site.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ashfeld stated that the city's site has been staffed part-time and the attendant that has worked at the facility for many years has retired.

Staff is requesting Council feedback regarding whether the city should continue service at the recycling drop-off site, which would mean recruiting a part-time position, or if the city should repurpose the site for another use.

Council consensus was to discontinue the city recycling site at CR30/Fernbrook and refer residents to the Hennepin County transfer station. Council directed that information be provided in city communications regarding recycling options for residents, including requesting additional or larger recycling bins at their residence and information about the services available at the Hennepin County site. Council consensus was to explore alternative uses of the city land at CR30/Fernbrook for possible senior housing.

**Old Village Hall
future**

Community and Economic Development Director Hogeboom stated the Village Hall suffered a fire as a result of arson on October 18, 2022. He provided detail regarding the investigative report provided by Encompass, Inc. and noted that the building is salvageable.

Community and Economic Development Director Hogeboom explained the Village Hall was constructed in 1939. It replaced the Town Hall, which was constructed in 1856 and was later destroyed by a tornado. He noted the facility has served a variety of uses over the years, and most recently was operated by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Community and Economic Development Director Hogeboom reviewed the feedback provided by the Park Board regarding options for the damaged structure. Council consensus was to move forward with seeking proposals for the restoration of the facility as well as meet with the Maple Grove Historical Society to receive their input on the future of the facility.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Steffenson at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Nelson
City Administrator