

Maple Grove City Council work session

meeting minutes

May 2, 2022

Call to order

Pursuant to call and notice thereof, a City Council work session was held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2022 at the Maple Grove Government Center/Public Safety Facility, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Present were Mayor Steffenson and Councilmembers Karen Jaeger, Phil Leith, Judy Hanson (attended via WebEx), and Kristy Barnett (attended via WebEx). Present also were City Administrator Heidi Nelson, Community and Economic Development Director Joe Hogeboom, Economic Development Manager Brett Angell, Public Works Director/City Engineer Ken Ashfeld, and City Attorney Justin Templin.

Mayor Steffenson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Discuss liquor license city code requirements

Economic Development Manager Angell stated staff has received inquiries from businesses expressing interest in locating in Maple Grove. He noted that in an effort to bring the city's liquor licensing code into alignment with current market conditions, potential changes to the code could be incorporated. He explained that the intoxicating liquor section of code would focus on adding potential uses, adding a use type which is relatively newer in the market, adding an exemption to the food percentage requirement for certain business types, a potential cap on off-sale licenses, and other changes that would provide additional clarity to the code. He stated no new businesses are forthcoming at this time, but that these code updates would ensure the city is well-positioned to respond to business inquiries moving forward.

Councilmember Jaeger stated that the food requirement percentage was initially included in City Code to discourage bars from opening in the city. Economic Development Manager Angell noted that the proposed code language updates would only make a food requirement exception for experience-based businesses.

Councilmember Leith asked how many other cities have a food sales percentage requirement. Economic Development Manager Angell noted that it is not a state requirement to have that rule. He noted other cities are changing their code language in order to attract these types of businesses. City Administrator Nelson commented that staff could collect data on the percentage splits and bring that data back to council at a future meeting.

Councilmember Leith stated he was supportive of the proposed City Code language updates, but he did not want to put a limit on the number of off-sale licenses the city can offer.

Councilmember Hanson noted that she was in favor of the self-dispensing tap wall as well as keeping the food sales percentage requirement. She was originally in favor of putting a cap on the number of off-sale licenses the city could offer, but in comparing what other cities are doing, she supports not putting a max number limit on off-sale licenses.

Councilmember Barnett indicated that she was supportive of the proposed City Code language updates.

Mayor Steffenson stated he would like to continue with no cap on the number of off-sale licenses, and he is supportive of the proposed code updates. He noted he would be inclined to go to a 51 percent food sales requirement rather than 60 percent for on-sale wine licenses.

**Other items as
deemed necessary**

Councilmember Jaeger questioned whether or not it was good timing to have new council photos taken in a couple of weeks considering three people on the council have terms expiring at the end of the year. Consensus of the council was to move forward with photos being taken on May 16.

City Administrator Nelson discussed upcoming work sessions for the month of May. She noted that staff wishes to discuss the current COPS and OJP grant opportunity. She also noted that the city's prosecuting attorney would like to discuss a traffic diversion program. She anticipated both topics taking about one hour of work session time on May 16. City Administrator Nelson advised of a tour on May 19 at 5 p.m. at the Plymouth Creek Center that might assist with ideas for Maple Grove's Community Center project. City Administrator Nelson stated a joint work session with City Council and the Park Board is tentatively set for May 23 at 7 p.m. regarding the Community Center project.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Nelson
City Administrator