

City of North Saint Paul
March 19, 2019
Adopted City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Scott Thorsen
Council Member Tom Sonnek
Council Member Jan Walczak
Mayor Terry Furlong

Absent: Council Member Candy Petersen

Staff: Interim City Manager Scott Duddeck, Community and Administrative Services
Director Debra Gustafson, City Attorney Soren Mattick

Guests: Terre Heiser with Roseville IT

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye, Council Member Petersen absent (4-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as presented.

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. Electronic Reader Board Sign Policy

Debra Gustafson noted the Casey Lake electronic message board sign was installed in 2017. Over the past year, several non-profit groups have approached the Mayor and Parks and Recreation Commission regarding displaying messages on the sign. At the February 27, 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, the Commission made a unanimous recommendation to City Council to expand the current electronic messaging at Casey Lake Park to include North St. Paul non-profits and non-profit events and programs held within City limits of North St. Paul. Gustafson stated the proposed sign policy would allow the following sign content:

- City of North St. Paul government news, programs, events, and public safety notices.
- Community events and programs sponsored by North St. Paul 501 (c) 3 non-profit organizations or by 501 (c) 3 non-profit organizations outside of North St. Paul that are hosting an event in North St. Paul. Any events advertised must be open to the general public.

- The following types of messages sponsored by people or companies renting the Casey Lake Shelter: messages of celebration, condolence, or welcome related to the rental event or identification of the rental event.

Gustafson provided a brief synopsis of the City Attorney's analysis on consistency with city sign ordinance and first amendment implications. City Attorney Mattick stated if the sign message requests become problematic in the future, the City can always make changes to the policy.

Council directed staff to make the following edits to the policy:

- Remove the following language "Events must not be in direct competition of a City Event (i.e. Egg Hunt the same day as the City's Egg Hunt)" from the policy.
- Add a statement regarding messages that are not acceptable such as: No profane or violent language or terroristic threats.
- Add the following regarding City Managers discretion: Messages in question will be left to the discretion of the City Manager to determine if the message fits within the policy.

Council asked to table the electronic reader board policy at tonight's City Council Meeting and bring back the policy at an upcoming meeting after their suggested edits have been incorporated. Council suggested circulating the edited policy prior to having the packet go out.

B. Recap of cable franchise meeting

City Manager Duddeck provided a recap of the recent cable franchise meeting. Manager Duddeck stated the cable commission is currently looking for a ten year renewal commitment. The City needs to give notice to the Commission if they wish to opt-out by October. Manager Duddeck stated there is \$94,000 currently available from the Cable Commission to update equipment in the City Council Chambers and to install A/V in the Sandberg Conference Room. There are concerns regarding cable programming since many users are changing their technology from cable to streaming services. Several Ramsey County communities (Mounds View and Maplewood) have opted out of being in the Cable Commission and Vadnais Heights is researching the option of leaving the Commission.

City Attorney Mattick stated he recently represented a City in the west metro that opted out of their cable commission. Mattick encouraged the Council to look at the impact of local sports broadcasting should the City leave the Commission.

City Council directed staff to further research what the City's options are and present options at an upcoming meeting.

V. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye, Council Member Petersen absent (4-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 6:20 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Scott A. Duddeck, Interim City Manager