



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

September 11, 2023 | 5:30 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3.01 of the Blaine City Charter, a Council Workshop meeting is scheduled for the following purpose:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sanders at 5:30PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Tim Sanders, Councilmembers Terra Fleming, Leslie Larson, Chris Massoglia, Tom Newland, Jess Robertson, and Lori Saroya.

ABSENT: None.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Michelle Wolfe; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; City Planner Sheila Sellman; Director of Administration Cassandra Tabor; Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker; Finance Analyst Jenna Trittin; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; City Attorney Tom Loonan (via Zoom); Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

2. New Business

- 2.1.** 2023-420 Request for Future Workshop Agenda Items: NMTV
Sponsors: Michelle Wolfe, City Manager

Councilmember Massoglia requested discussion about the future of cable commission services. Blaine is a member of the North Metro Telecommunications Commission. The commission is also governed via by-laws. The cable commission operates North Metro TV (NMTV). NMTV offers news and sports coverage, broadcast and streaming of local meetings, and a variety of services and classes. The joint powers agreement between these cities was signed in 1980. The first franchise was signed in 1983. The current Executive Director of

North Metro TV is retiring at the end of 2023. The cable television landscape has been changing with the advent of streaming and satellite television. Given these and other considerations, Councilmember Massoglia would like the city council to consider exploring options for the future of NMTV. Exploring options will involve working collaboratively with our North Metro partner cities, NMTV staff, CCX staff and member cities, cable commission attorney(s), and possibly other cable commissions and individual cities. He commented on a potential merger that may occur with another cable commission and requested the council discuss this topic further at a future workshop meeting.

Councilmember Larson asked if NMTV supported a merger.

Councilmember Massoglia stated there were pros and cons of a merger and that now may be the time for NMTV to consider this because of the leadership transition. City Manager Wolfe explained this was a unique situation noting there was a joint powers agreement in place with seven other partner cities.

Councilmember Fleming questioned if the partner cities needed Blaine's support in order to move forward.

Councilmember Massoglia reported Blaine has 57% of all subscribers and Blaine's vote would determine what happens.

Councilmember Robertson and Councilmember Newland supported the council further discussing this topic at a future workshop meeting.

Council consensus was to schedule the topic for discussion at a future workshop.

2.2. 2023-423 Request for Future Workshop Agenda Items: 114th Lane
Sponsors: Michelle Wolfe, City Manager

Councilmember Robertson explained she would like to gauge the council's interest in discussion potential bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancements along 114th Lane.

Councilmember Fleming stated she supported this topic coming back to a future workshop meeting.

Councilmember Newland agreed, noting this may lead to a broader discussion about other areas in the city that need safety enhancements.

Councilmember Saroya stated she did not want to send the message that any one neighborhood was receiving special treatment then commented on road and safety concerns currently occurring in Ward 1. She indicated she did not support moving this item forward at this time.

Councilmember Larson supported the council further discussing how to improve safety along 114th Lane.

Councilmember Newland asked if the traffic commission should discuss this matter.

Councilmember Robertson commented this item was brought forward for the sake of transparency but noted the changes she was proposing could be done administratively.

Councilmember Newland stated he supported this item be further discussed at a future workshop meeting.

Councilmember Fleming indicated this neighborhood was asking for help and supported the council discussing this at a future workshop.

Councilmember Saroya explained she supported the council focusing on street safety, but encouraged the council to be strategic and mindful. She feared this action was reactive and would send the wrong message to residents.

Councilmember Massoglia stated he supported the council having further discussion regarding this topic.

Council consensus was to direct staff to schedule this topic for a future workshop.

2.3. 2023-404 Zoning Ordinance Discussion for Northtown (Part 2)
Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, City Planner

Community Development Director Thorvig stated at the September 6, 2023 Council Workshop the Council discussed creating a new zoning district for the Northtown area and reviewed uses. Staff requested further direction from the council on how to address personalized instructional services and fitness centers, total floor area limited to 4,000 square feet without a conditional use permit, gas stations, educational uses, private clubs, and vocational or trade schools.

Councilmember Saroya commented on the number of banks in the Northtown area and asked that no future banks be allowed unless one were to close or move from the area. Mr. Thorvig stated the city was not allowed to regulate the number of banks within a zoning district. He explained the city could choose not to allow them in this district, which would allow existing banks to remain but future banks would not be allowed.

The council supported outdoor recreation being an accessory use in the Northtown area.

Councilmember Robertson asked if the requirements for outdoor entertainment would be listed within the ordinance. Mr. Thorvig reported this was the case.

Mr. Thorvig questioned if the council would want another liquor store in this area if the current liquor store were to close.

Councilmember Robertson supported the council having further discussion regarding the number of liquor licenses allowed within the city.

Councilmember Fleming, Councilmember Massoglia and Councilmember Newland supported smaller fitness facilities in the Northtown area.

Mr. Thorvig questioned how the council wanted to address gas stations in the Northtown area.

Councilmember Robertson indicated she could support the Northtown area having a gas station, so long as the aesthetics were unique or fit with the area. She did not support the gas station having a car wash.

Councilmember Saroya stated she did not support the Northtown area having a gas station.

Councilmember Larson explained she supported the area having a gas station without a car wash.

Councilmember Fleming questioned if the city would be allowed to limit the number of gas stations in the Northtown area. Mr. Thorvig stated he would have to discuss this further with the city attorney.

Councilmember Newland indicated he could support stand alone gas stations without a car wash.

Councilmember Saroya requested the location of gas stations be limited to ensure they did not end up near residential.

Mr. Thorvig asked how the council wanted to address educational uses.

Councilmember Fleming did not support Northtown having public educational uses, but could support the area having a charter, STEM or vocational school.

Councilmember Larson commented she did support educational uses in the Northtown area.

Councilmember Robertson did not support educational uses because she did not believe they fit with the vision for the area. She stated she could support tutoring or targeted educational uses.

Councilmember Saroya supported educational uses, noting there was a charter school in this area previously.

Councilmember Newland indicated he could support the area having a charter school, but not a public school.

Further discussion ensued regarding the charter school that was previously located in Northtown Mall.

Councilmember Saroya was of the opinion that adding population to this area would require a school in the future.

Councilmember Robertson stated the intent of the area was for entertainment, retail, restaurants and amenities. She did not believe vocational or charter schools were the intent for the area. She indicated the council could always consider a special educational use request in the future. For this reason, she believed it was wise to not include this use.

Councilmember Larson explained she believed an educational use would bring young people and foot traffic which would bring tax dollars to the area.

Councilmember Fleming indicated she would rather see an art studio or museum than a school in this area because this would draw people to those amenities.

Councilmember Massoglia stated he had no problems with educational uses.

Mayor Sanders reported he did not support the Northtown area having a post secondary school.

Councilmember Fleming and Councilmember Robertson agreed stating this would be counterintuitive to the plan or vision for this area.

Mr. Thorvig requested feedback on how the council wanted to address private clubs. The council supported the Northtown area having private clubs.

Mr. Thorvig discussed how the Minnetonka ordinance provides further development standards to protect adjacent properties. He asked the council if staff should pursue this type of language for the Northtown area. The council supported staff looking into this further.

Mr. Thorvig questioned if the council supported the Northtown area having assisted living and memory care facilities.

Councilmember Massoglia and Councilmember Larson supported this use in the Northtown area.

Councilmember Robertson indicated she could support this use, but recommended specific locations be considered.

Mayor Sanders stated he could support this use on the north side of Highway 10, but not on the south side of Highway 10.

Councilmember Larson agreed with this recommendation. She commented further on how she supported this area having more uses because there were 146 acres that were going to redevelop.

2.4. 2023-403 2040 Comprehensive Plan High Density Residential Sites Discussion
 Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director

Mr. Thorvig stated the 2040 Comprehensive Plan identifies various sites for high density

residential use. The high density land use category allows residential densities between 12-25 units/acre. Building types allowed are quadhomes, townhomes, apartments, condominiums, and cooperatives. The comprehensive plan is a future planning document required by the Metropolitan Council for all cities within the seven-county metropolitan area. The housing chapter addresses affordable housing allocation requirements set forth by the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council forecasts future affordable housing needs using a regional economic model, then allocates a share of the overall need to all communities expecting sewer-serviced housing growth over the next decade. Based on the formula, Blaine is required to plan for 1,139 new units. Cities aren't required to create enough units to meet their share of the need, but they must plan for possibility of these units by guiding sufficient land at higher residential densities. Existing affordable housing in the community is factored into this formula. This factor considers a community's existing supply of affordable housing, reducing requirements for communities that already supply higher levels of affordable housing. This factor is estimated using Metropolitan Council estimates based on 2013 and 2014 MetroGIS Regional Parcel Datasets; 2008- 2012 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data; and the Metropolitan Council's annual survey of manufactured housing parks. Eighty one per cent of Blaine's current housing stock was determined to be affordable to low-income households, which is above the Metropolitan Council's average of 66%; therefore, Blaine's affordable housing allocation was decreased by 162 units by this adjustment factor.

Mr. Thorvig explained in order to meet the unit requirement, the land use plan requires that certain land be guided for medium and high density residential to accomplish affordable housing allocation goals. The logic is that medium and high density residential land use is more conducive for affordable housing, and by requiring cities to set aside vacant or land to be redeveloped for medium and high density, it creates an opportunity for affordable housing to be built, though affordability is not required when those sites develop. By having this requirement in place, it distributes the ability of where affordable housing could be built amongst all cities versus concentrating it in certain cities/parts of the metro area. Due to the requirements, certain parcels of land were guided for high density residential in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. In general, there has been a policy shift in the city council's philosophy on high density land use, specifically related to apartments, since the 2040 Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2020. There are four specific high density residential sites that were identified in 2022 that could potentially be changed to a lesser density land use designation, which would exclude apartment use on the property. Those four sites were discussed at a retreat in October 2022. Given when the discussion occurred, it was not possible to change the land use designations prior to a change in the city council body that occurred in January 2023. With the new makeup of the city council, staff would like to revisit the four sites and have the current city council provide direction on land use changes.

Mr. Thorvig reported two of these sites were discussed at the May 1, 2023 workshop as part of the Northtown land use discussion. Since that workshop, staff has met with the Metropolitan Council and completed calculations to ensure that changes to the density can occur and still meet the affordable housing unit allocation requirements. Density reduction is feasible due to the proposed changes in the Northtown Area (yet to be formally approved) and the addition of high density housing land use for a portion of the 105th Avenue redevelopment area that was approved in 2022. Understanding that the Northtown area land use changes have not yet been approved, if there are changes to what was discussed at previous workshops, it is possible that additional changes in density to other sites citywide

may not be entirely feasible. Once the land use changes are formally adopted in the Northtown area (expected this fall), staff will complete density calculations based on that action and bring forward proposed changes to the other sites based on council feedback and the ability to reduce density based on changes in the Northtown area. Staff requested council provide staff with feedback on the following potential high density residential sites:

- Northwest Corner of 125th Avenue and Lexington Avenue
- Ulysses Street and Paul Parkway
- Polk Street and 101st Avenue
- Polk Street and Cloverleaf Parkway

Councilmember Saroya said she believed three of the four affordable housing sites were proposed for Ward 1. Mr. Thorvig clarified that two sites were in Ward 1 (Polk Street and 101st Avenue and Polk Street and Cloverleaf Parkway).

Councilmember Larson commented on how rental rates could be higher than anticipated by developers, due to the rising interest rates and costs for construction.

Councilmember Massoglia questioned how the city defined vacant land. Mr. Thorvig stated this had to be vacant land or sites planned for redevelopment.

Councilmember Saroya expressed concern with how the city was proposing to add more high density affordable residential in Ward 1. She explained she did not support this.

Mayor Sanders commented on the differences between high density housing and affordable residential units. He urged the council to look at the areas of the city that could support high density residential and not wards. He stated the Northtown area would be able to support additional high density residential areas because it would have amenities and restaurants that would be attractive for apartment or mixed use living.

Councilmember Larson agreed stating she does not think of the 105th area as Ward 1 only as it was more central to the city and did not mind additional apartments in this area. She discussed how this area of Blaine would properly support apartment living.

Councilmember Massoglia indicated he believed the zoning should be flipped so there were apartments and retail south of 125th.

Mayor Sanders asked if commercial would work in this area. Mr. Thorvig stated this could work.

Councilmember Robertson commented there was a component or ecosystem need for high density housing and felt it did not make sense for the corner of 125th..

Councilmember Fleming agreed.

Councilmember Newland stated he could support the change as proposed by Councilmember Massoglia.

Councilmember Larson indicated she did not want high density on the south side of 125th given the beauty and location of the nature trail.

Councilmember Saroya commented she could support the change as proposed by Councilmember Massoglia.

Mayor Sanders discussed how commercial development brings more traffic than apartments.

Mr. Thorvig stated he would further investigate the shift proposed by Councilmember Massoglia. He provided further comment on the Ulysses Street and Paul Parkway site noting staff was recommending this site be changed from HDR/Planned Commercial to MDR/Planned Commercial.

Mayor Sanders explained he would like to see the city pursuing more creative or elevated design for mixed use products in areas like these.

Councilmember Fleming commented she supported staff recommendation for this neighborhood.

Councilmember Massoglia agreed.

Councilmember Saroya believed this was the right location for apartments. Mr. Thorvig stated typically development steps from apartments to townhomes and then to residential.

Councilmember Newland supported this property remaining HDR.

Mayor Sanders indicated he was ambivalent regarding this property.

Councilmember Massoglia stated Paul Parkway did not have access to TH65 and for this reason would not support high density on this site.

Councilmember Larson explained there was a park and ride near this property, which was fitting for an HDR development.

Mayor Sanders reported the Metropolitan Council closed this park and ride location during COVID.

Councilmember Robertson commented if this was to become an active transit area again, this may be the right location for HDR.

Councilmember Massoglia suggested the former gas station near this property be considered for HDR. He stated he did not like apartments next to single family residential homes. Mr. Thorvig indicated there was merit in looking at apartments on the former gas station site.

Councilmember Fleming agreed with Councilmember Massoglia stating it made more sense to put the HDR development on the former gas station property.

Councilmember Newland stated he was fine with having HDR on the Ulysses Street and Paul Parkway site.

Mr. Thorvig commented on the Polk Street and 101st Avenue site and asked if the council supported this property changing to MDR.

Councilmember Massoglia supported this property having single family homes versus MDR.

Mayor Sanders explained if this was done, the council would have to add MDR somewhere else in the city.

Councilmember Newland agreed with Councilmember Saroya that this was a nice development area for single family homes, more so than MDR. He requested staff see what other areas in the city could serve as MDR in order to make up the difference.

Councilmember Robertson questioned if this property could remain greenspace. She indicated no matter what goes on this property, someone would be upset. Mr. Thorvig anticipated this would greatly upset the property owner.

Councilmember Saroya stated she liked this idea noting she has seen corporate-sponsored parks in other communities.

Councilmember Newland commented it appears there was consensus for this property to be something other than MDR.

Mr. Thorvig explained the last property up for consideration was at Polk Street and Cloverleaf Parkway and was 4.73 acres in size. He stated staff was recommending this property remain HDR.

Councilmembers Fleming, Massoglia and Newland were in agreement with this recommendation.

Councilmember Saroya did not believe this was the right location for an HDR development.

Councilmember Robertson questioned how feasible it was to actually develop this parcel. She asked if this site could be designated specifically for senior housing. Mr. Thorvig stated this could not be done.

2.5. 2023-411 City Manager Initial General Fund/EDA Budgets and Preliminary Levy
 Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director, Jenna Trittin, Finance Analyst

Ms. Wolfe described the growth the city was facing and commented on the staffing changes that have occurred in the finance department. She discussed how inflation was impacting the budget and explained it was necessary for the city to invest in its employees in order to retain them. The budget corrections being made for 2024 were further reviewed and she explained Finance Analyst Jenna Trittin would be presenting the preliminary budget and levy

to the council.

Finance Analyst Trittin provided a presentation on the initial general fund and Economic Development Authority (EDA) budgets as well as preliminary levy options. It was noted another council workshop for general fund, EDA, and preliminary levy is scheduled for September 18 prior to the preliminary levy adoption. It was noted councilmembers participated in small group discussions between July 19-31 during which staff presented initial general fund budget information. At the August 21 council workshop, staff brought a final copy of the small group presentation as well as general budget updates. A breakdown of the general fund budget increases from small group meetings versus where it is as of September is included below. A detailed listing of the base budget, department requests, and a list of changes since small group meetings were discussed.

Ms. Trittin explained the 2024 budget has provided unique challenges and opportunities. In addition to changes in city staff, a new web-based budget system has been implemented. While the budgeting software provides a more accurate and sophisticated model, the collaborative city-wide budgeting efforts identified several cost elements that were incomplete or incorrectly budgeted in recent years. Budget costs can be broken into ongoing expenses that are anticipated to increase a similar amount every year and one-time adjustments that have a higher impact in the first year and a smaller impact in future years. Staff provided further comment on the preliminary general fund and EDA budgets along with the the proposed levy and requested feedback from the council.

Councilmember Fleming asked how workers compensation premiums were decreased. Ms. Trittin discussed how the internal rate was decreased after further analysis by staff. Director of Administration Cassandra Tabor provided further comment on the city's mod rating and impacts that decreased costs significantly.

Councilmember Massoglia requested staff see what other cities had for workers compensation claims each year compared to Blaine.

Councilmember Newland asked what insurance the city gets through the League of Minnesota Cities. Ms. Trittin reviewed the insurance types the city receives from the LMC.

Finance Director Zimmerman commented on how the median value home would be impacted by the proposed levy.

Councilmember Robertson requested staff provide the council with a copy of this presentation prior to the next workshop meeting.

Councilmember Massoglia stated he would like more information from staff regarding the \$5 million in base budget increases.

Mayor Sanders urged the council to reach out to staff with any questions they may have regarding the preliminary budget as it would be considered by the council for approval on September 18. He indicated the council would be very busy in October and November reviewing budget information in order to make intelligent decisions on behalf of the city then asked when the council would be holding the truth in taxation hearing and questioned when the final budget would be approved. Ms. Wolfe stated the hearing was typically held

the second Monday in December and the final budget and tax levy would be approved at the final meeting of the year.

2.6. 2023-417 Adult-Use Cannabis Information

Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director

Mr. Thorvig stated pursuant to the new law, use of recreational cannabis by adults became legal August 1, 2023, but the sale of cannabis, cannabis products, and lower-potency hemp edibles is not legal until the Office of Cannabis Management begins issuing cannabis business and hemp business licenses. The Legislature did not identify a date when the Office of Cannabis Management will begin accepting, processing, and granting applications for cannabis businesses and hemp businesses. It seems generally understood that it will be a year or more before the Cannabis Management begins issuing licenses. Therefore, no retail sale of cannabis can occur until this is in place. This will allow cities time to study the issue and determine what local regulations to put in place regarding the sale of cannabis. He reported one of the recommendations is to establish a moratorium on both hemp and cannabis businesses through zoning. Many cities have adopted a moratorium to study the impact of retail sales and how to regulate them through zoning. A city continues to possess zoning and land use controls through which the city may regulate a cannabis business' location and the number of cannabis businesses in the city. A city must allow at least one cannabis business registration for every 12,500 residents; if a county, however, has one active registration for every 12,500 residents, then a city is not obligated to register a cannabis business. A city may also permit more than the minimum permitted by state law. Cities may prohibit the operations of a cannabis business within 1,000 feet of a school, or 500 feet of a day care, residential treatment facility, or an attraction within a public park that is regularly used by minors, including a playground or athletic field.

Mr. Thorvig explained given that the state hasn't created a licensing mechanism yet and retail sales are not permitted until then, a moratorium does not need to be immediately adopted, but the council may wish to consider implementing one to provide direction to current and any new lower-potency hemp businesses on where or how many eventual cannabis licenses may be allowed. However, it is still recommended to allow time to study the issue. A future workshop item will be scheduled to discuss the merits and timing of a moratorium. This will also allow time for the city to determine how/if to license these facilities. The Blaine City Council has previously addressed/discussed the following additional topics related to hemp and cannabis including the 2022 law related to edibles and use of cannabis in public places.

Ms. Wolfe explained she went through this process in Colorado and noted a year-long moratorium had been put in place to allow staff to study this topic.

City Attorney Loonan reported he was recommending the council place a moratorium in order to put a pause in place.

Councilmember Larson asked what other cities have put a moratorium in place. Mr. Loonan reported Lakeville, Spring Lake Park, and a number of other cities he represents have put a moratorium in place. He discussed how the state office has to put regulations in place prior

to this use being property licensed.

Councilmember Fleming anticipated other cities would be looking to Blaine and she hoped Blaine would be providing leadership when it comes to this topic.

Councilmember Massoglia indicated he supported the city attorney's recommendation.

Councilmember Newland agreed stating it would benefit the city to have time to review this topic and put regulations in place prior to the state licensing this use. He questioned how long the moratorium could be in place. Mr. Loonan explained after holding a public hearing the council could put a moratorium in place until January 1, 2025.

2.7. RES 23-140 Agenda Format for City Council Meetings Regarding Rules of Order and Procedure and Addendum
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

City Clerk Sorensen stated at the August 14 workshop, council reviewed staff recommendations regarding amendments to the current rules of order and procedure. After discussion and input, revised rules were presented for council adoption on August 21 and was tabled for further review at a workshop. Changes that have been incorporated from the August 14 workshop are:

- Removal of language regarding suspension of rules by vote of super majority for Adoption of Agenda
- Removal of language that participants may not speak on items that have already had a public hearing at a previous meeting under Open Forum
- Amendments to items for inclusion on the Consent Agenda such as CUPS, variances, second readings of rezoning, preliminary plats, and items with limited concern/no public comment

Ms. Sorensen reported under Other Business at the August 21 meeting, a motion was adopted regarding Placement of Items on an Agenda as stated below:

Any two members of Council may place an item on a council meeting agenda if the item is submitted by the end of the business day on Monday, one week preceding the Monday council meeting. Items must be presented in writing to the city manager. Items sent one week prior will be included in the original printing of the agenda. Thereafter, items requested by any two members of council prior to the time the agenda is formally adopted at the council meeting will be included in the recommended additions to the agenda by the city manager. These recommended additions will be adopted onto the agenda by a majority vote of council.

Ms. Sorensen reported staff is suggesting that this adopted language be incorporated into the finalized resolution for adopting rules of order and procedure, so this rule is clearly documented. Once general consensus is reached on any remaining items, a finalized resolution adopting rules of order and procedure will be placed on an upcoming council agenda for formal adoption. As noted earlier, council will be asked to adopt these rules

annually by resolution at the first business meeting of the year in order to best document the most current rules going forward, so this item will be before council again in January 2024. If adopted, the final resolution will formally replace Resolution 99-152 and all its adopted addendums that have occurred over time.

Mayor Sanders explained he and Councilmember Massoglia spent a great deal of time discussing this issue and that they held a productive conversation earlier today. He summarized this conversation, noting councilmembers would be able to bring topics forward with a motion and second under Other Business and this item could then be discussed at a future workshop meeting. If there is majority support from the council at that workshop meeting, the item could move forward to a future council meeting. He asked that the rules state it would require at least three councilmembers to move an item forward, but Councilmember Massoglia would prefer just two.

Councilmember Massoglia stated he agreed to the compromise and noted he wanted to maintain a mechanism for two councilmembers to place something on an agenda and have it voted on. He believed this was a right for councilmembers both now and in the future.

Councilmember Robertson asked about the potential of possibly significant staff time for an item that may not have consensus from the council. She indicated she did not support the proposed compromise and would rather have at least three councilmembers bring an item forward. She feared matters would feel adversarial when brought up at Other Business versus going through the normal workshop channel.

Councilmember Massoglia commented there were "what if" scenarios that could be addressed under the new compromise, such as the humane pet store ordinance. He questioned at what point was it fair to bring this item forward in order to take action in a public and transparent manner.

Councilmember Larson stated just because the compromise was in place did not mean this would be the preferred method for bringing items forward. She indicated the compromise would be a safeguard. She explained she liked the compromise because it provided another way to bring items forward.

Councilmember Newland asked if a motion and second would be all that was needed to move an item to a workshop meeting. Mr. Loonan explained this could be written into the city council's rules.

Councilmember Fleming questioned if items could still be submitted to the city manager. Mayor Sanders reported this practice would continue.

Councilmember Fleming stated she could support the compromise, noting it made sense to review items in workshop before taking formal action.

Councilmember Saroya discussed the benefit of having some conversations at televised meetings versus non-televised workshop meetings for transparency and believed the original proposal made more sense.

Mayor Sanders noted workshop meetings were open to the public with approved minutes

and explained no official actions were taken at workshop meetings but consensus requested in order to move items forward. He stated workshop meetings were the perfect time for council to discuss and work through matters and hoped to further foster these discussions on items and that good policy decisions would then occur at regular meetings.

Councilmember Newland and Councilmember Fleming indicated they supported the compromise.

Ms. Wolfe explained if something comes up under Other Business, staff may not fully understand when that item can be scheduled for a workshop or how much staff time it would take to research the matter.

Councilmember Robertson stated she was concerned with how this compromise would impact staff. Ms. Wolfe commented she was still processing how the compromise would impact staff but stated she preferred this option better and appreciated that the previous process would remain in place.

3. Other Business

None.

4. Adjournment



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk

The Workshop was adjourned at 9:41PM.