



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

February 21, 2024 | 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.

2. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Chris Massoglia.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Michelle Wolfe; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; City Planner Sheila Sellman; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; Senior Parks and Recreation Manager Jerome Krieger; City Attorney Tom Loonan; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3. New Business

- 3.1.** 2024-52 Closed Session Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) - City Manager Performance Review
Sponsors: City Council

A motion was made and seconded to move into a Closed Session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) in order to conduct the city manager's performance review and council chambers security update.

- 3.2.** 2024-44 Closed Session Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(d) for Council Chambers Security Update
Sponsors: Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief

A motion was made and seconded to move into a Closed Session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(d) for Council Chambers Security Update.

- 3.3.** 2024-42 Annual Communications Update
Sponsors: Ben Hayle, Communications Manager

A motion was made and seconded to reconvene the worksession meeting.

Communications Manager Hayle provided an update on the work done by the city's communications team. He introduced his team members to the council. The update included an overview of the different ways the communications team engages with the Blaine community. It was noted the communications department completes 23 different publications each year. The digital communications systems the city has in place were further discussed. Also included in the presentation was a look back at 2023 statistical data and a look ahead to 2024 goals and projects. He indicated staff would be working to revamp the city's website beginning in March and encouraged the council to remain connected with the city on social media channels.

Councilmember Newland asked what has been the communications team's primary focus over the past five years. Mr. Hayle stated his primary focus has been on building and organizing a communications team.

Councilmember Newland inquired if the *Blaine Life* had a new reporter covering the city of Blaine. Mr. Hayle explained this was the case and noted he would be reaching out to this reporter in Q1 in order to make a connection.

- 3.4.** 2024-43 Aquatore Bandshell Rental Discussion
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Senior Parks and Recreation Manager Krieger stated the Aquatore bandshell is scheduled to open in time for the Blaine Festival, which is in late June. Staff have already started to get inquiries about renting the facility after construction is completed. The Parks and Recreation staff has researched four other large bandshell and amphitheater facilities to compare prices and types of rental activities. The four cities are Bloomington, Maple Grove, Plymouth and Edina. Staff presented the council the comparison in pricing and amenities

offered for these four cities. Currently, the Tom Ryan, Lakeside Commons and Aquatore outdoor shelters are rentable on either a half-day or full-day basis. The Mary Ann Young Center has part-time building supervisors to work on various rentals at that facility. The building supervisors have expressed interest in working at the bandshell, if the opportunity arises for additional rentals. It was noted staff is looking for direction from the city council on renting the bandshell and what to communicate with the public when they inquire about the facility.

Councilmember Robertson explained she supported the bandshell being rented, but wanted to be assured the Blaine Festival Committee supported this. Mr. Krieger stated the festival committee supports the rental of the bandshell.

Councilmember Robertson recommended damage deposits be collected for all rentals of the bandshell to protect the space. She indicated she could support \$200 per hour rental rates for the bandshell and suggested the bandshell be rented in three or four hour increments. She stated she would like to see the rents collected covering the staff time to oversee events at the bandshell.

Councilmember Fleming asked if residents would have to pay for an entire block of time if they only need the bandshell for two or three hours. Mr. Krieger stated he was proposing to have the bandshell rented in two different blocks. The first block would be from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the second block would be from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Councilmember Newland supported the city having a resident and non-resident rate in place for the rental of the bandshell. He recommended a premium rental rate be set for the bandshell. He inquired if there would be any type of events that would be prohibited at this facility. Mr. Krieger stated staff would review each rental request to see if the event could be held on city property.

Councilmember Larson indicated she supported the proposed rental blocks for the bandshell.

Councilmember Saroya stated she supported the city renting out the bandshell. She questioned how staff would address noise issues. Mr. Krieger explained the bandshell faced southwest which meant sound would project towards TH65 and TH10. He stated with the surrounding traffic, staff did not anticipate noise would be a concern.

Councilmember Saroya questioned if the bandshell would be used year round. Mr. Krieger anticipated the bandshell would be used spring through fall. He indicated the indoor space could be used through the winter months for festival meetings or other city programming.

Councilmember Saroya explained she trusted staff to come up with rental rates for the bandshell. She indicated her only concern was not to deter residents, especially Ward 1 residents, based on fees. She suggested the city consider naming the bandshell after Greenberry Chambers.

Councilmember Robertson asked what the city has learned from renting MAYC that should be considered for the bandshell. Mr. Krieger stated MAYC was having a wide range of rentals from people both inside and outside the community. He explained people were

utilizing MAYC for birthday parties, showers, and homeowner association meetings.

Councilmember Fleming stated she could support the city having a resident and non-resident rate for the bandshell rental rates.

Councilmember Larson indicated her only concern was that the city did not have split rates for any other facilities in the community. She questioned how staff believed the council should proceed on this matter. Mr. Krieger supported the city having resident and non-resident rental rates for the bandshell. He explained the council could review the rates at the end of the year after a season of rentals was complete and review at that time.

4. Other Business

City Clerk Sorensen shared an update on the board and commission applicant review.

5. Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 6:56PM.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk