



FEBRUARY 18, 2025 WORK SESSION MINUTES

**February 18, 2025 at 5:00 PM
7701 County Road 110 West Minnetrista, MN 55364**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Whalen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Assistant City Administrator Polsfuss Introduced new employees, Mason Storms and Brendan McCarthy.

2) DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Xcel Energy Easement over City Hall/Police Properties

Community Development Director Abel shared that Xcel Energy plans to rebuild an 8 mile stretch of transmission line that has reached its end of life. Within this stretch, there is a small jog in the line that occurs behind City property where City Hall and Police Station are located. Xcel would prefer to remove this jog and straighten the line out, but it would then be located on City property. Xcel has provided a market based offer in the \$5,000 - \$6,000 range. The City Council has the discretion to require an appraisal if they feel.

Council had a brief discussion on the pros and cons of having an appraisal done. It was decided to take the \$6,000 offer.

b) Woodland Cove HOA Crosswalk Request

City Administrator Kruggel shared the Woodland Cove Villa HOA has submitted a letter requesting the addition of crosswalks at the intersections of Foxglove Drive and Woodland Cove Boulevard, as well as Cranesbill Road and Woodland Cove Boulevard.

Staff have been communicating with HOA representatives and met with them as early as July 2024. At that meeting, staff provided an engineering analysis indicating that the traffic volumes and intersection configurations did not warrant crosswalk installations at that time.

Council Member Reffkin added that she thinks a crosswalk will give pedestrians a false sense of security that cars are going to stop and they don't need to be aware.

Kruggel shared three videos taken from a residents camera of the crosswalk in question.

Chief Falls summarized the videos saying that pedestrians are capable of crossing the street safely with or without a crosswalk. He indicated that putting in a crosswalk doesn't make it safe.

Arron Goedeke, 4600 Foxglove drive, referred to a U of M study that showed marked crosswalks significantly increased the number of drivers properly yielding to pedestrians where they were placed. Paul input that this will not help.

Council Member Reffkin shared that the actual master HOA was not in support of crosswalks because they don't want parents, kids or anyone with a false sense of security that they don't have to look both ways before crossing the street.

Council Member Vickery and Lacy shared their support for this. Council Member Govern stated that we need to look at the real issue as to if it is that motorists are not yielding to pedestrians on the street or is it that people are driving too fast on the road.

Chief Falls explained that once one crosswalk goes in there are going to be more requests and if they are everywhere they lose their effectiveness.

Mayor Whalen suggested that police and staff create criteria to use by which we would then determine if this met the criteria and then in the future when we get more requests then we can use that criteria to determine what is best.

Kruggel said we have criteria that we use from engineering standards. We would need guidance from this group as far as what the criteria should be. Cathleen said that this will require them everywhere.

Mayor Whalen suggested that Mr. Goedeke get all his neighbors together and come to the March 17th meeting and sign up for persons to be heard showing how many people really want this.

c) **Private Items in Public Right of Way**

City Administrator Kruggel shared that public right of way (ROW) exists for the city and small utilities (such as gas, electric, and communications) to install infrastructure necessary to serve the public. It's fair to assume that the majority of residents are not aware what ROW is, let alone how far away the ROW line is from the edge of the road. As such, many residents install improvements within public ROW such as irrigation systems, pet fences, landscaping, and radiant heating systems for driveways. When street improvements are constructed it is often necessary to excavate portions of the ROW, damaging or removing private items.

Historically the city has paid for the replacement or repair of the private items. Kruggel shared the costs incurred between 2021 and 2023. In addition to these construction costs, there are additional costs attributed to staff and consultant time to talk to residents and coordinate the work.

Kruggel proposed to Council to start a policy in 2026 when we have another reconstruction project potentially and hold residents responsible for things they may have in the ROW.

After Council discussion it was decided that the City will make it known to residents that a project is approaching and if they have anything in the ROW it is their responsibility to move it.

Kruggel suggested that we incorporate that message into some of the neighborhood meetings to make sure they understand.

d) **Water Treatment Plant Design and Discussion**

Aaron Vollmer, AE2S, addressed Council and walked through the water system planning review:

- Historical and Future Projections
- Water Use History (South Zone)
- Capital Planning (South Zone)

Filter Options with estimated costs:

- A. Steel Filter Layout (with both units) (2,100gmp) = \$24,500,00
- B. Original Concrete Filter Layout (2,100gpm) = \$23,200,00
- C. Steel Filter layout (with one unit) (1,000gpm) = \$22,500,000
- D. Revised Concrete Filter Layout (2,100gpm) = \$21,800,00
- E. Consider Designing a Concrete filter layout for expandability? Reduce the Capacity Target to 1,700gpm, 3 Smaller Filters, Leave Space to the West for future expansion

Storage:

- Currently planning on including a 600K gallon storage tank
- Split into 2 parts – 200K gallon pumping chamber, 400K gallon clearwell
- If 400K clearwell is removed savings is \$1,000,000
- The clearwell can be bid as an alternate
- Able to add this in the future when needed
- Kings Point tower rehab will require more storage or WTP capacity

The City Council direct AE2S and staff to proceed with designing a 2200 GPM plant with a 750K Gallon clearwell, as well as commissioning the assistance of a firm to help confirm the engineer's estimate of probable cost. Future updates will include progress reports, along with cost updates as they develop

3) ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vickery seconded by Reffkin to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Meyerhoff, City Clerk