



APRIL 21, 2025 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

April 21, 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.

2) DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) City Council Closed Session - Active Litigation

Council went into closed session at 5:02 p.m.

Motion by Council Member Lacy, seconded by Council Member Govern to exit closed session at 5:41 p.m.

b) Highway 7 Corridor Study - Presentation of Alternatives

City Engineer Fauske explained that MnDOT completed a study of Hwy 7 Corridor to: Understand the transportation needs of all users, Identify opportunities for future improvements, establish a shared vision for improvement concepts among study partners and Develop and evaluate these concepts to inform the design of facilities that will be upgraded as part of a 2029 pavement resurfacing project in the corridor.

She presented three alternatives that are being brought forward from the latest study for discussion.

- No Build (Current Conditions)
- Access Controlled – Roundabout Corridor
- Access Controlled 0 Non-Traditional Intersections

Conversations need to be had with emergency services for response time.

MnDOT right now is asking for Council feedback. The point of this presentation was for Council to see this before it went public.

Council had a discussion about the pros and cons of each alternative.

c) Fire Department Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Update

City Administrator Kruggel shared that there have been a series of meetings that have started talks about the formula to determine who pays for what.

Mayor Whalen and Councilmember Reffkin shared the different details that include market value and call time. They stated that they hope Council will agree that Minnetrista is completely against a hundred percent market value and will not agree to those terms.

Council Member Reffkin came up with an alternative that she shared:

- 25% call volume and 75% market value the first year which would result in a 2.61% levy hit the first year
- Reduce until it is eventually down to 50-50 split and hold firm

d) Residential Chickens (Hens) Discussion

Community Development Director Abel shared that Staff and City Council have heard recently from residents and a councilmember that there is interest in residential chickens. Currently, city code includes chickens in the definition for farm animals. Farm animals are currently only allowed in agriculture and agriculture preserve zoning districts or on a residential lot of at least 10 acres.

If the City Council were to consider allowing residential chickens (hens), adding language to the exceptions to allow a certain number, as determined by the City Council of chickens in residential districts would be needed.

Abel added that many of the City's residential neighborhoods are also governed by a homeowner's association. City code does not supersede any HOA covenants. If HOA covenants do not allow for chickens, then a resident in that neighborhood would not be allowed to have chickens.

Council had a discussion about what it would entail to allow chickens in residential neighborhoods including lot size and number of chickens.

Mayor Whalen asked Council if anyone was interested in allowing chickens with a lot of regulations or limitations. Councilmember Govern and Lacy said yes and Councilmember Vickery and Reffkin said no.

Administrator Kruggel responded that he thinks staff can give Council a kind of a dichotomy of wanting this or that. He advised staying away from putting an acreage number on it because it becomes problematic.

Mayor Whalen gave direction to staff to bring back some information based on what they've heard and based on their knowledge and bring this item back to the next work session.

e) City Council and Commissions Code of Conduct

Item was moved to the May 5th Work Session due to time.

3) ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Vickery, seconded by Council Member Reffkin to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.