

**CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
Via Zoom**

**Monday, March 29, 2021 at 4:30 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL:** Councilors Geissler, Hauschild, Peterson, Mayor Boucher

**ABSENT:** Councilor Nelson

**CITY STAFF:** John Mulder, City Administrator; Eric Johnson, Community Development Director; Joe Wicklund, Communications Director; Jim Crace, Chief of Police  
Steve Overom, City Attorney

**OTHERS:**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Update on Community Recreation Initiative: John Mulder presented a legislative update on the sale tax request. Hearings have been held in both the Senate and the House. The House report included the sales tax for the arena and trails, but not the park improvements. The Senate Committee will release their report in the next week or so.

Joe Wicklund presented selected slices of data from the survey in order to better understand the data and the level of community interest in different subgroups of the individuals who took the survey.

City Council Priorities Review: John Mulder presented the list of City Council priorities and their relative rank by the City Council. He also included an update on some of the priorities and steps that have been taken.

Broadband: Steve Overom discussed the draft policy on broadband. Originally, the policy was designed to meet the public purpose for providing a grant to Mediacom as part of their “Field of Dreams” state grant. The State of Minnesota had specific broadband goals and the City Council has identified broadband and improved internet service as one of their priorities. As the City learned about the Federal American Rescue Funding dollars, it has been proposed that some of the money be set aside to facilitate broadband expansion. While a final recommendation is not ready for how much of the federal money would be set aside for broadband grants, it could be as much as \$500,000. The policy as it is proposed, would set the public purpose for the use of City Funds and would create a task force with specific tasks to better understand the issues, and make recommendations to the City Council about future grants to facilitate expansion of improved internet services. The draft policy would be presented to the City Council for action on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Following that, a draft grant agreement would be sent to Mediacom for comment before presenting it to the City Council for approval.

Naming Rights: John Mulder reviewed the discussion points on the naming policy that had been sent out earlier in the day. Typically, there are two ways things get named. The first is simply recognizing a person or place with a name, and the second is through a naming agreement. In the past, parks were either named in recognition of individuals for their service and/or donation, or for nearby geographical features. The first formal naming rights agreement was with the Essentia Wellness Center. In that case, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a health partner to have a presence in the building. Out of that proposal process, a naming rights agreement was developed. John Mulder suggested that the City Council should decide if a naming rights option would be available on any given item (whether it be a facility, park or trail). In some cases, it simply may not be something the City would not want a name attached to.

He suggested that if the Council was willing to offer a naming rights opportunity, then Council should set a minimum and then formally see proposals. That process would include having a draft naming agreement. A model naming agreement was included in the material sent out with the discussion points. Within the first half of April, John will convene a small group of no more than two Council members and some City staff to consider a process for naming the trail without a naming rights agreement.

Legal Services RFP – Timing: John Mulder discussed the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for legal services that was included in the packet. The RFP needs some final changes before it is ready to be presented for approval to the City Council. The proposed timing would be for the City Council to approve a final RFP at the first meeting of June. Proposals would then be due the first part of July with the Council deciding in either August or September after interviews. The start date would be negotiated between the City and the new firm.

Recess: The meeting recessed at approximately 6:25 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk