

**CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION**

Monday, September 13, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT:

CITY STAFF: John Mulder, City Administrator; Joe Wicklund, Communications Director;
Steve Overom, City Attorney

OTHERS: Gunnar Johnson, Jim Crace, Jeff Schiltz, Natalie Hoff, Chip Jacobs

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Legal Services

The City Council discussed the outcome of the interview process, and the consensus was to move forward with naming Gunnar Johnson as the City Attorney effective January 1, 2022. Steve Overom would stay on as the legal counsel for HEDA, the Broadband Task Force and other economic development projects. Over the next several months, we will start a transition process. A new contract will be presented to the City Council for formal action on September 20th.

Community Recreation Initiative:

Naming Rights Discussion: John Mulder explained that Grant Hauschild was taking the lead on discussions on the naming rights. Grant reported that he and Joe Wicklund had met with a possible donor earlier in the day. They discussed a possible gift to name the facility. That donor was going to consider the request and would follow up with Grant. The Council discussed the process of naming the new rink in the facility. That process will wait until after the facility is named. Further fundraising for the arena would be turned over to either the Hockey Association or a private group after the larger naming items have been determined. The City would provide some guidance and parameters for that group at that time.

Referendum Discussion: Gunnar Johnson reviewed the various steps in the referendum process including key target dates that must be met (for example: The City Council should approve the ballot questions by July 15, 2022). He has started on the wording of the questions. Three questions are required under the current law. The Council discussed at length the role of the City in providing educational information related to the referendum, but could not advocate for one side or the other as an official position of the City.

Construction Delivery Methods: Jeff Schiltz of ICS started by giving an overview of the work that had been done under their 10-month contract and some of the work that needed to still be completed. ICS provides project management by engaging the professional services such as architects and engineers and also serves as the construction manager. They do not perform construction work, but can serve as a construction manager agent or as a construction manager at risk. Jeff cited their work with the City of Grand Rapids as a current project they have. They can also provide informational services as part of the referendum process.

Consultant Scope of Services: Project management or construction management may not be necessary for the trail work if approved. The City could follow the process it has used on other segments with a separate project manager. The Fichtner Park matter needs some additional planning along with public engagement to determine what the final product would include. The addition to the new arena could benefit from a project manager. No final decision was made at this time.

The next steps include:

- Meeting with the school board to discuss ownership of the land for the arena and naming rights. Mayor Boucher will serve as Council representative at those meetings.
- Follow up on naming rights. Councilor Hauschild will take the lead on this process.
- Identifying someone from the community to champion the projects. Some specific names were discussed. This also included scheduling a stakeholder's meeting in the near future.

Recess: The meeting recessed at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk