

Worksession  
March 22, 2010  
Municipal Center

- Call to Order                   The Champlin City Council met in a Worksession and was called to order by Mayor Uglem at 5:45 p.m.
- Roll Call                        Present were Mayor Uglem, Councilmembers Eric Johnson, Greg Payer, ArMand Nelson and Julia Whalen.
- Absent: no one.
- Also present were City Administrator Bret Heitkamp, Police Chief Dave Schwarze, Deputy City Administrator John Cox, City Planner Scott Schulte, Parks Facilities Manager Dan Masloski, City Attorney Darrell Jensen and Owl Engineering Consultant Gary Lysiak.
- Approval of Agenda         Motion by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Nelson to approve the March (March 22, 2010)         22, 2010 agenda as presented. Voting in favor were Mayor Uglem, Councilmembers Johnson, Nelson, Motion                             Payer and Whalen. Voting against: none. Motion carried.
- Police Department Service   The City Administrator stated that a list of service expectations for City departments have been Philosophies                    created. On an annual basis we make sure the Council and staff have a mutual set of measurable service expectations. He stated that the police department service philosophies are being presented for review this evening.
- The City Administrator stated that the police department is currently down two police officers, one of which is not budgeted to be replaced in 2010.
- The Police Chief stated that the five service philosophies include:
1. Crime Action Plan
  2. Information/Communications
  3. Traffic Enforcement and Residential Patrol
  4. Professionalism and Image
  5. Operational Efficiencies
- The Police Chief provided an overview of the philosophies for the department.
- The Police Chief detailed the crime action plan and a summary of the programs used to deter crime within the City of Champlin. He stated that the department recommends following the existing crime action plan to further attempt to deter crime.
- Councilmember Johnson asked for further information regarding the pawn shop.
- The Police Chief advised that the police department holds the business accountable for the things spelled out in the ordinance, nothing more or less. He advised that the department has been spending less time at pawn shop than they had originally.
- The Police Chief detailed the philosophy of sharing information and explained the lines of communication used to pass information onto the public and community businesses.
- The Police Chief reviewed the traffic enforcement program and he explained that in 2008 the traffic car had been initiated as a two-year program. He stated that the police department has continued the pro-active traffic enforcement efforts; however they have begun to note a possible public viewpoint that they are being too aggressive.
- The City Administrator stated that since the traffic program began two years ago there has been a

direct link, in that calls for service have gone down as the number of traffic citations has increased.

Councilmember Johnson stated that it is a difficult situation because you need to balance the two sides and you will never hit the middle exactly. He advised that negative experiences tend to spread more quickly than positive aspects and explained that it would be difficult to change the perception of the public. He stated that the balance should be monitored to ensure that the department is not viewed as being too aggressive.

Councilmember Payer stated that the issues he heard from the public involved situations in which the police department was able to break the law to catch people speeding, such as facing the wrong way in a round-a-bout. He believed that the department should stay the current course in terms of aggressive patrol, but not use deceptive means to monitor traffic.

The City Administrator confirmed that the Council would like the police department to stay the course in terms of the aggressive traffic program, but also balance the efforts with community education, to their discretion.

The Police Chief confirmed that the Council was okay with the general thoughts of the public in regard to the extremely aggressive City traffic enforcement.

Mayor Uglem reiterated that the City has seen a significant decline in calls for service (22.5%) since 2005 and the traffic enforcement program has played a major role in the reduction of crime. He stated that he thought it was very important to extend every courtesy to the residents of Champlin, whenever possible. He advised that in regard to stopping citizens of Champlin, that all professionalism and courtesy be used to explain the importance of obeying traffic laws.

The City Administrator reviewed the DTF, LHU, Traffic Enforcement and DARE programs and questioned if the Council was comfortable with the resource allocation between the four programs specified.

The Police Chief stated that his recommendation was to maintain the aggressive traffic enforcement program and once again verified that the Council was supportive of that effort.

The Police Chief stated that the police department would like to keep all four programs specified and believed that each program has an impact to both the police department and the public. The recommendation was to begin the replacement process for the 25<sup>th</sup> officer to be able to maintain the level of service that is currently provided to the public.

Councilmember Nelson questioned the overtime line item in the budget if the 25<sup>th</sup> officer were not replaced this year.

The Police Chief reported that if the two officers were not replaced there would likely be an increase in overtime, which would result in an overage in the budget.

The City Administrator stated that staff is recommending replacement of the 25<sup>th</sup> officer at this time.

Councilmember Payer requested further clarification on the duties of the 24 officers in the department, as only 12 are listed as patrol officers. He advised that one sergeant was recently demoted and is working patrol, which gives the department one more patrol for the time being, until the arbitration is finished. He believed that the hiring process should be delayed until that arbitration decision is determined.

The City Administrator explained that in the previous year overtime was reduced by using investigators for one shift per week, which caused a backup in the investigations aspect. He confirmed that the Council was comfortable with continuing this operational practice to help reduce overtime.

Councilmember Payer questioned if the sergeant position would be replaced if the arbitration decision is in the favor of the City.

The City Administrator stated that if the individual prevails, he would then become sergeant again, but

if the City prevails then a discussion would occur with the Council, as to whether the sergeant position would be replaced.

Councilmember Payer reiterated that he believed that the decision should be delayed at this point until the arbitration decision is made to provide additional flexibility on hiring at that point.

**Council Consensus**

The consensus direction from the Council was to support the five service philosophies as presented and to proceed as follows:

- Continue the aggressive traffic enforcement but balance the proactive approach with the public perception of our police department being too aggressive.
- Police Officers should not use “deceptive” means to catch residents.
- Give deference to residents when possible.
- Continue to make neighborhood patrol a priority.

It was also the consensus of the City Council to hold off on beginning the hiring process for the replacement of the 25<sup>th</sup> officer until after the outcome of the pending arbitration is known. Staff was directed to bring back a recommendation regarding sergeant/patrol officer staffing proposal after the arbitration.

Alcohol & Tobacco  
Compliance Program

The Police Chief summarized the tobacco and alcohol compliance program and the penalties regarding violations.

Councilmember Payer stated that he believed that the current evaluation period regarding the number of violations in a 12 month period should be extended to 18-24 months.

The Police Chief stated that the turnover involved in gas station and convenience stores ownership and staffing is very high and explained that although good hiring methods are used by those business owners, problems can still arise. He reported that the police department also provides educational information to local businesses. He advised that the individual that sells the product is charged and the civil penalty is charged to the business. He advised that if complaints are received regarding a specific business the police department will check that business in addition to the regular checks that are done bi-annually by the department. He advised that the department could provide additional checks to repeat offenders if problems arise.

**Council Consensus**

It was the consensus of the City Council to follow the current ordinance and the associated penalties, but that the police department is to use their discretion in conducting additional compliance checks on businesses encountering more than two violations in an 12 month period.

Review Policy on Mass  
Communication Towers in  
Parks

The City Planner reported that during the previous month the Council provided a list of questions in regard to a request for a potential mass communication tower being located in Andrews Park. He stated that Clearwire does not have an interest in the Park and Ride site, located on 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as it does not meet their coverage specifications. He then provided answers to the questions that were brought up by the Council during the previous discussion explaining why the other proposed sites would not work.

The Parks Facilities Manager stated that staff spoke with neighboring communities and that in the cities of Andover and Blaine communication tower requests for placement in city parks have been denied due to minimum setbacks not being met.

The Deputy City Administrator summarized the conditions recommended by staff in regard to approval of the tower being proposed in Andrews Park and the process that would be recommended, such as beginning with a public informational meeting and concluding with formal Council action.

Councilmember Payer questioned the cost involved in constructing a building and tower.

The City’s consultant on telecommunications matters, Garrett Lysiak of Owl Engineering, advised that the cost could begin around \$125,000 and would go up from there. He advised that the City of Shoreview allows towers within parks and has an ordinance in place that could be reviewed by the City

of Champlin.

Councilmember Payer suggested that two parties co-locate and that this request should be a joint venture between Clearwire and T-Mobile, with a one-time park location fee of \$75,000 to the Park Reserve Fund.

Mayor Uglem stated that it has been proven that radiation is not an issue with communication towers and pointed out that power poles are already located in the park and would be similar in size. He stated that if the pole was to be located in the park it should be designed properly and would be expected to cost more should it be located in a park rather than on a water tower. He stated that cell phones and wireless internet services have become a way of life for most people and thought it would be important that coverage be provided throughout the community.

Councilmember Johnson stated that he would be in favor of the pole being in Andrews Park but agreed that a park fee of one percent of the annual fee should be required. He stated that he liked the idea that the funds be dedicated towards the parks and questioned if this fee was directed to Andrews Park, would that open additional funds for other City park programs such as the three (3) temporary ice rinks which were closed by a previous Council action.

Councilmember Nelson stated that all of the funds should not be allocated towards Andrews Park and that other park programs and services should be allowed to benefit from the additional funds as well. He agreed that a park fee be included and thought that the fee should be between the one percent suggested by Councilmember Johnson and the \$75,000 suggested by Councilmember Payer.

Councilmember Whalen agreed that she would be in favor of the request with the addition of the park fee requirement. She agreed that the funds should be spread between the parks in the City and stated that she would not be in favor of a flag being displayed on the tower. She advised that she believed that the two parties should co-locate.

Mr. Lysiak advised that T-Mobile is attempting to fill a gap in their coverage while Clearwire is attempting to establish a new system. He explained that height requirements can change whether there is one carrier or two carriers at one location.

Councilmember Payer questioned if other carriers may be interested at this time. He stated that he would only be interested in one pole being located in the park and advised that any interested parties should come forward now.

**Council Consensus**

Mayor Uglem confirmed that there was consensus among the Council to investigate the option of a mass communication tower being located within Andrews Park and summarized the items discussed by the Council including directing staff to negotiate terms that require the following:

- Co-location of multiple vendors
- \$25,000 a year lease fee
- \$50,000 one-time contribution to the Park Reserve Fund

Staff was directed to establish options for potential CIP park system improvements or programming services in which the revenues generated by the mass communication tower could be utilized.

Adjournment

The Worksession meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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Mark W. Uglem, Mayor

Attest:

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Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk