

Committee-of-the-Whole
February 10, 2014
Municipal Center

- Call to Order The Champlin City Council met in Worksession and was called to order by Mayor ArMand Nelson at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call Present were Mayor ArMand Nelson and Councilmembers Eric Johnson, Ryan Karasek, and Bruce Miller.
- Excused Absent: Councilmember Kara Terry.
- Staff Present: City Administrator Bret Heitkamp, Community Development Director John Cox, City Planner Scott Schulte, City Engineer Tim Hanson, Assistant City Engineer Todd Tuominen, City Clerk Roberta Colotti, and City Attorney Darrell Jensen.
- Approval of Agenda Motion by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Karasek to approve the agenda (February 10, 2014) for the February 10, 2014 Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) as presented. Voting in favor were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Johnson, Karasek, and Miller. Voting against: none. Motion carried.
- Motion
- Mississippi River Critical The City Planner stated that in January, Anoka County hosted a meeting of Anoka and Hennepin Corridor Area Rule County communities along the Mississippi to discuss concerns and issues associated with the MRCCA Revision Proposal rulemaking process. Concerns expressed include a lack of clarity in terms and definitions, the potential creation of non-conformities, unclear and potentially onerous vegetative management requirements and the impact on local control and public facilities (e.g. roads, parks and other public facilities).
- At the meeting Anoka County introduced a resolution they adopted that requests exemption from the rulemaking process. They asked affected cities to consider adopting a similar resolution.
- The City Planner stated that a report was recently released from the DNR concerning the MRCCA rulemaking process. The report summarizes the MRCCA history, outlines the goals for the rules, provides a timeline for the rulemaking effort and estimates costs associated with the new rules. The rules are not expected until late March. At that time, public hearings will be scheduled.
- The City Planner stated that staff believes some level of regional governance of the Critical Area is beneficial and dismissing rules prior to their drafting is premature. Further, it is worth noting several points regarding the rulemaking process and the request from Anoka County:
- The draft rules posted on the MRCCA website are from 2011 when the process was ceased. The draft rules as posted are the starting point for the current process.
 - The DNR has stated via email (attached) that they have made many revisions to the rules based on feedback from local governments; though we do not know the extent of those revisions.
 - The resolution passed by Anoka County requests that north metro communities be exempted from the rulemaking process. It does not request that communities be exempted from the MRCCA. That said, if the resolution request was granted, it is believed that Executive Order 79-19 and regulations within it would continue to apply. If affected communities were removed from the MRCCA entirely, state shoreland regulations would likely apply.
 - Executive Order 79-19 is antiquated and precludes certain redevelopment plans for Mississippi Crossings.
- The City Planner stated that staff does not endorse the resolution as presented by Anoka County. Instead, it is recommended that the City Council consider the following actions:

1. The City shall remain involved in the MRCCA rulemaking process to ensure local government interests are being addressed in the rules.
2. Removing affected communities from the MRCCA entirely is not recommended. Some level of corridor-wide regulation is necessary to protect the Mississippi River as a regional resource.
3. Make our local Legislators aware of the City's position regarding the MRCCA rulemaking at the upcoming Legislative Worksession.

Council Consensus

It was the consensus of the Council to support the three point recommendation of staff with further direction to contact Anoka to fully understand their motivation behind the resolution. Staff is to monitor the timeline for the state adoption of the new rules and to schedule a work session with the City Council once the rules are released.

Adjournment

The Champlin City Council adjourned the Worksession at 6:55 p.m.

ArMand Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk