

Minutes of the Proceedings of the City Council of the City of Champlin in the County of Hennepin and the State of Minnesota  
Pursuant to Due Call and Notice Thereof

Worksession  
February 24, 2014  
Municipal Center

- Call to Order                   The Champlin City Council met in Worksession and was called to order by Mayor ArMand Nelson at 7:58 p.m.
- Roll Call                        Present were Mayor ArMand Nelson and Councilmembers Eric Johnson, Ryan Karasek, Bruce Miller and Kara Terry.
- Absent: None.
- Also present were City Administrator Bret Heitkamp and City Attorney Darrell Jensen.
- Approval of Agenda           Motion by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve the agenda for (February 24, 2014) the February 24, 2014 Worksession as presented. Voting in favor were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Johnson, Karasek, Miller and Terry. Voting against: none. Motion carried.
- Motion
- Update on Frozen Water       The City Administrator reported that due to abnormally deep frost conditions we have received reports Service Lines of water service lines freezing throughout the City. He stated that in response to this issue the City has made the decision to move forward with thawing lines with the use of an electric welder.
- The City Administrator stated that the first water lines were thawed today and it was extremely successful. He stated the process took about 20 minutes. He advised that the City Attorney drafted a liability waiver based on the League of Minnesota Cities example for impacted residents to sign. He stated that the waiver explains that once the lines are unfrozen it is the responsibility of the resident to keep the water lines in working condition or the resident would be charged if the service is needed again. He stated that the notice contains information on keeping water lines open. He explained that the entire line is being thawed even though the City is not obligated to do so. He stated that he would rather the City be in control of the street lines and the system rather than having different private contracted plumbers manage the system.
- Councilmember Miller questioned why the City cleared a resident's water line.
- The City Administrator explained that in some cases it is not known where the freeze point is located, whether it is within the private line or within the City maintained line.
- Councilmember Terry explained that this happened at her home and she was told by the Utility Department that it depends where the connection is frozen as to the responsibility. She noted that she was advised that she would be responsible for the cost should that happen again.
- The City Administrator stated that there are some homes in Champlin that have been without direct water service for three weeks due to frozen lines.
- Councilmember Miller questioned where the funds for this work are being taken from and who should be responsible for paying these costs.
- The City Administrator explained that the funding will come from the water fund. He stated it could possibly be argued that these costs are the responsibility of the individual homeowner. However, he stated that the City has never had a city-wide problem to this level, ever.
- Mayor Nelson stated that he has seen no less than 60 emails regarding this issue on a Minnesota Mayors blog and advised that the City is in line with the majority of other cities in how the issue is being resolved.
- The City Administrator noted that information regarding water use charges for those property owners that are continually running water to keep the lines open or providing water to a neighbor is also

included in the packet of information with the liability waiver.

Mayor Nelson confirmed that freezing could spread to neighboring properties and that this response of the City could help to prevent that.

Councilmember Johnson stated that he believed that the City has always had the philosophy of doing what is right and believed that this is the right thing to do.

The City Administrator noted that the City is tracking these expenses along with the expenses for snow plowing. He advised that the salt supply is almost gone while noting that March is usually the largest snow-producing month for the year. He also updated the Council on the status of the outdoor skating rinks.

Councilmember Miller stated that perhaps these efforts could be publicized to alert residents to what the City is doing in regard to water lines freezing.

Councilmember Johnson confirmed that QCTV could be scheduled to go out with the Utility Department staff to film this process.

Adjournment

The Champlin City Council adjourned the Worksession at 8:15 p.m.

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ArMand Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

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Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk