

Worksession
May 12, 2014
Municipal Center

- Call to Order The Champlin City Council met in Worksession and was called to order by Mayor ArMand Nelson at 6:00 p.m.
- Roll Call Present were Mayor ArMand Nelson and Councilmembers Kara Terry, Eric Johnson, Ryan Karasek, and Bruce Miller.
- Absent: none.
- Staff Present: City Administrator Bret Heitkamp, Community Development Director John Cox, City Clerk Roberta Colotti, City Engineer Tim Hanson, Assistant City Engineer Todd Tuominen, and City Attorney Scott Lepak.
- Approval of Agenda
(May 12, 2014)
Motion Motion by Councilmember Miller and seconded by Councilmember Karasek to approve the agenda for the May 12, 2014 Worksession as presented. Voting in favor were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Terry, Karasek, Johnson, and Miller. Voting against: none. Motion carried.
- Mill Pond Fisheries and
Habitat The Assistant City Engineer stated that the Mill Pond Fishery Concept Plan has been developed to provide a basis for discussions with regulating agencies (Elm Creek Watershed, DNR and Army Corps of Engineers). The Concept Plan identifies major excavation and habitat improvements to restore the Mill Pond Fishery and improve water quality.
- The Assistant City Engineer stated that the project cost was identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program with \$740,000 funded via the Storm Sewer Fund and the balance from outside grants. This project is too large to be considered for the DNR Legacy Funds. However, it would be eligible for a grant directly from the Lessar-Sam Outdoor Heritage Council. He stated that without grant assistance this project is not viable.
- The Assistant City Engineer stated that at this time, the City is in a position to start reviewing grant opportunities and start discussions with regulating agencies. He noted that the combined cost for these two next steps is \$10,000. He stated that the Council could also start exploring cost share agreements with potential developers for the excavated granular material.
- The Assistant City Engineer recommended that the City Council move forward step by step with this project. He outlined the required steps and proposed timeframe. He stated that if the Council is interested in moving forward this year they would need to apply for funds in June and he would need to confirm with the City's engineering firm that the necessary reports can be prepared by the submittal date.
- Councilmember Miller asked if we could partner with the Three Rivers Park District on this project.
- The Assistant City Engineer stated that they do not have property abutting the project area.
- Councilmember Johnson asked if the funding for this project conflicts with the funding for the Elm Creek Dam project.
- The Assistant City Engineer confirmed that the two funding programs do not conflict.
- Councilmember Johnson asked if there would be an impact on the fisheries project if we do not do the dam project.
- The City Engineer confirmed that there would be an impact on the fisheries project if we do not do the dam project.

Councilmember Johnson asked when the fisheries project would be scheduled for.

The Assistant City Engineer stated that the project would require the draw-down of the Mill Pond and that the work would likely be scheduled for late summer/fall.

Councilmember Johnson asked if this project would improve the water quality.

The Assistant City Engineer stated that he believes this will improve the water quality by increasing the depth of the pond. He noted that it is currently a shallow marsh like pond.

Councilmember Johnson asked if the pond would be swimmable following this work.

The Assistant City Engineer stated that would be dependent on the water quality up-stream.

Councilmember Terry asked if designating the Mill Pond as a fish habitat would lock the City into certain protective regulation requirements.

The Assistant City Engineer stated that it would result in certain regulations.

Councilmember Miller asked if this improvement would open us up to additional units of government control.

The Assistant City Engineer stated that it would not as it would be controlled by the same agencies that have control at this time. He described the "Fish in the Neighborhood" program. He stated that there might be parts of the dam project that the City can leverage for this project as it shows our interest in this area.

Councilmember Miller asked if there was a way to work with corporate partners on this project.

The Assistant City Engineer stated that there are existing volunteer organizations that we can partner with to leverage their work for this project.

Mayor Nelson asked how long it would be before we would have to dredge the pond again.

Councilmember Miller also asked when the built-up island would begin to erode.

The Assistant City Engineer stated that while it's understood the silt will move the project overall needs to be designed to be a fix not a temporary solution. They need to design it to protect the work that is done. He stated that that over the past five years the Watershed has been working on a TMDL study which will be out soon. He stated that through their expected recommendations there should be a reduction in the level of future erosion.

Council Consensus

It was the consensus of the Council to wait to approve funding for the required work related to making grant applications and presenting this project to regulating agencies until after the funding for the Elm Creek Dam project is finalized by the State Legislature.

Adjournment

The Champlin City Council adjourned the Worksession at 6:38 p.m.

ArMand Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk