

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
January 31, 2025
Mississippi Crossings Event Center

Call to Order

The Champlin City Council met in Worksession and was called to order by Mayor Ryan Sabas at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present were Mayor Ryan Sabas and Councilmembers Jessica Tesdall (Ward 1), Tom Moe (Ward 2), and Tim LaCroix (Ward 4).

Absent: Councilmember Nate Truesdell (Ward 3).

Also present were City Administrator Bret Heitkamp, Police Chief Glen Schneider, Community Development Director Scott Schulte, City Engineer Heather Nelson, Park and Recreation Director Dan Glynn, State Senator John Hoffman, State Representative Danny Nadeau and North Metro Mayors Representative Troy Olsen.

Approval of Agenda
(January 31, 2025)
Motion

Motion by Councilmember Moe and seconded by Councilmember Tesdall to approve the agenda for the January 31, 2025 Worksession Meeting as presented. Voting in favor were Mayor Sabas, Councilmembers Tesdall, Moe, and LaCroix. Voting against: none. Motion carried.

2025 Legislative Update:
Representative Nadeau
and Senator Hoffman

Representative Nadeau and Senator Hoffman gave an update of 2024 Legislative action and presented their priorities for the 2025 legislative session.

Champlin's 2025
Legislative Priorities

The City Administrator gave an overview of Champlin's 2025 Legislative Priorities.

Bonding Bill

City Engineer Heather Nelson stated that population growth and development in the northwest Twin Cities Metro Area has driven the need to evaluate regional traffic demand and the need for a Mississippi River Bridge Crossing Study.

She also discussed the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) Expansion Project, which will fill a critical 3.5-mile gap in Champlin, of the 800 mile Mississippi River Trail which runs from the Mississippi River headwaters at Lake Itasca State Park in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana. The project will incorporate striping, regulatory signage, wayfinding, ADA compliant curb cuts and ramps, and road crossing enhancements.

Finally, City Engineer Nelson stated that the City of Champlin is proposing multimodal safety improvements at the intersection of CSAH 122 (French Lake Road) and Brookside Trail/Elm Creek Crossing. The project includes the construction of a roundabout to improve sightlines, slow vehicle speeds, improve accessibility and reduce crossing distances for people walking, biking and rolling.

Park and Recreation Director Dan Glynn stated that the City of Champlin is working toward establishing a greenway along the Elm Creek. The green way will connect the Mississippi Crossings area to the Three Rivers Park District's Elm Creek Park Reserve. The City closed on two properties in January 2025, leaving one remaining property (Sawatsky) left to acquire.

He also stated that 519 and 701 East Hayden Lake Road (Brown Park) was acquired by the City in January 2025. The property is located on the Champlin Mill Pond and was acquired as a key piece of the Elm Creek Greenway. The City plans to design and develop this land into a City park.

Finally, Park and Recreation Director Glynn stated that DC Chandler Park, which is located on the Mississippi River in Champlin, has a new parking lot that was completed in 2024 and other infrastructure in the park has recently been removed, providing a "blank canvass" for development. Development of the property would include a destination playground with regional significance, a restroom and concession building that would support the playground and West Mississippi River Regional Trail users, and an overlook of the Mississippi River.

Governance

Community Development Director Scott Schulte stated that concerns have been raised regarding activity involving group homes in Champlin. The concerns led to questions regarding their regulation. Currently, there are 43 group homes in the community. They are fairly disbursed through the City, although a concentration exists on Pennsylvania Avenue near West River Road, where there are four licensed group homes adjacent to each other and eight group homes within 1,500 feet. Residents living in this area have been quite vocal regarding their concern. Representative Nadeau is working on legislation that would effectively reinstate a municipality's ability to require rental licenses for group homes licensed under Section 144G or 245D. Under Champlin's Rental Density Ordinance, the homes would then be limited to density caps as established on a per block basis.

Public Safety

Police Chief Glen Schneider stated that the PUPS Facility, an eight-city joint powers venture that is located in Maple Grove, was started in 1991 with the purpose of reuniting lost animals to their owners. Since its inception, the facility has become aged and is no longer able to support the demands of the quantity of recovered lost animals. A remodel and expansion is required to provide north metro police departments with a location to bring recovered pets.

Chief Schneider also stated that metro cities are pursuing funding to offset the cost of securing city infrastructure in the event of a riot or other large scale civil unrest event, as part of the Fence Consortium.

Quality of Life

Mayor Sabas discussed resident's concerns with wake boats on the Mississippi River Recreational Pool.

North Metro Mayors Association: Troy Olsen

Troy Olsen, representing the North Metro Mayors Association, gave a brief presentation regarding the priorities they see for the 2025 legislative session.

Adjournment

The Champlin City Council adjourned the regular meeting at 3:30 p.m.



Ryan Sabas, Mayor

Attest:



Julie Tembreull, Executive Assistant/City Clerk