

**City of West St. Paul
Open Council Work Session Minutes
April 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.**

1. Roll Call

Mayor Halverson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Halverson
Councilmembers John Bellows, Anthony Fernandez, Ed Iago, Dave Napier, Bob Pace, and Dick Vitelli

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Ryan Schroeder
City Attorney Kori Land
Police Chief Manila Shaver
Fire Chief Mike Pott
Assistant City Manager Sherrie Le
Parks & Public Works Director/City Engineer Ross Beckwith
Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn
Finance Director Char Stark
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

2. Review and Approve the OCWS Agenda

Council approved the Work Session agenda.

3. Review the Regular Meeting Consent Agenda

Councilmember Bellows stated that he believes the portion of the minutes of the February 26th Council Meeting, Item 6, relating to the comments of Mr. DeLaRosby and the omission of Mayor Pro Tem Napier's ruling restricting any response to the assertions of Mr. DeLaRosby is a material omission. Councilmember Bellows requested that these minutes not be included because he intends to vote no on a motion to approve the minutes.

Council approved the Consent Agenda, as presented.

4. Agenda Item(s)

a. Closed Session Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(c) to Discuss the Sale of Real Estate Regarding Thompson Oaks Site

Motion was made by Councilmember Bellows and seconded by Councilmember Napier to close the meeting at 5:03 p.m., pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(c) to discuss the sale of real estate regarding Thompson Oaks site.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Present during the closed session were:

Mayor Halverson
Councilmembers John Bellows, Anthony Fernandez, Ed Iago,
Dave Napier, Bob Pace and Dick Vitelli
City Manager Ryan Schroeder
City Attorney Kori Land
Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

Schroeder provided an overview. Council asked questions and received answers.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bellows and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to open the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

b. Thompson Lake Storm Water Project Update

Josh Peterson, Engineer – Environmental Resources Department for Dakota County, provided a brief presentation of the Thompson Lake Storm Water project.

At the January 9, 2017 City Council meeting, West St. Paul entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with Dakota County and the Lower Mississippi River Water Management Organization (LRMWMO) for the Thompson Lake Storm Water Project 17-5. The project is currently under design and construction is anticipated to being in late 2018. An Open House is scheduled from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on April 26, 2018 at the Dakota County Lodge in Thompson Park.

Thompson Lake watershed encompasses approximately 175 acres of residential, commercial, institutional and park land use. The watershed was developed prior to storm water treatment requirements so runoff from the watershed is primarily untreated. The proposed project will remove built up contaminated sediment (Phase 1) and treat storm water runoff prior to discharging into Thompson Lake

(Phase 2). This will reduce phosphorus concentrations in the lake, improve lake clarity, and lead to removal of Thompson Lake from the DNR Impaired Waters list.

The estimated cost of Phase 1 is \$1.3M which will be funded by Dakota County. The estimated cost of Phase 2 is \$720k. The LMRWMO was successful in obtaining a Clean Water Fund grant in the amount of \$576k which requires a 20 percent match. The City will be responsible for approximately \$144k of the match based on estimated costs. The City's 2018 Capital Improvement Program has \$300k programmed for this project.

Mr. Peterson said the project is focused on Thompson Lake. He said the County is starting the master plan process for Thompson County Park in 2019.

Mr. Peterson said Thompson Lake is landlocked by an area that drains directly into Thompson Lake. He said the large drainage area created two issues: 1) Phosphorus and 2) Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. He said this is becoming an issue in a lot of city stormwater ponds. He added that the project objective is to remove contaminated sediments in the lake which allow for installation of permanent stormwater best management practice at the inlet. Mr. Peterson said phase one is sediment removal and phase two is stormwater best management practices.

Mr. Peterson said the final phase will be finished in July of this year. However, he said a lot of the work won't occur until about late October so as not to disrupt weddings and senior photos planned for the area. He added that a lot of removal will happen between November and January and final grading and finished project should be about May of 2019.

Councilmember Iago questioned, with all the contaminants in the lake, if the fish taken out of the lake are edible. Mr. Peterson said they looked at the sediments and the fish and it was found not to be of concern. He said it is safe to eat the fish. He also added that the lake is not very deep, so it has a good freeze-out during winter.

Councilmembers Vitelli and Napier commented that this is a good improvement for Thompson Lake.

Mayor Halverson asked if this information is available on the County's website. Mr. Peterson said yes, anyone can search "Thompson Lake Restoration" on the County's website or visit <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/Improvement/Thompson/Pages/thompson-lake-restoration.aspx>.

Mayor Halverson suggested moving to Item D, Waste Hauler Ordinance Amendment, as the next item of discussion because several waste haulers were in attendance at the meeting.

d. Waste Hauler Ordinance Amendment

In September 2017, Council discussed options for change in residential waste hauling. In November, staff followed up on Council discussion with a meeting of the haulers providing residential service within the community. Essentially, the haulers appeared willing to react positively to City suggestions for improvements; however, there are a few issues that would need to be considered.

Recently, the City of St. Paul went to an organized collection system. The contract for the St. Paul system starts on October 1. Implementation of the contract requirements are anticipated to include monthly reporting for the first 15 months of implementation. At least some of our haulers are concerned about back office impacts of the St. Paul system.

Beyond the above, the haulers have discussed both a reduction of the number of licensed haulers (with grandfathering) and an attempt to limit the number of days of hauling in West St. Paul. Lakeville recently reduced its number of haulers from six to five after Garbage Man sold out to Waste Management. The haulers seemed to suggest that a reduction to four or five haulers (again with grandfathering) would not be a bad idea. Alternatively, it was suggested that if West St. Paul reduced licenses to two or three that would reduce competition and might have the impact of increasing pricing.

Neither West St. Paul, South St. Paul nor Inver Grove Heights have collection day restrictions. Inver Grove Heights discussed the matter last year but ultimately did not make any changes. However, as noted above, the haulers seemed interested in working toward collection day restrictions as a method to stave off movement toward organized collection.

The above hauler suggestions appear to have potential for positive change. Beyond that and any other Council directives, staff believes that we should also discuss licensing performance standards, as such does not currently exist.

Schroeder said the haulers also received the same memo as the Council did. He said the reason it is on the agenda is to revisit what the Council is interested in doing about the waste hauler ordinance and regulations. Schroeder said it was suggested in the memo that there seems to be some acceptance from the haulers. If we want to do some time of day restrictions, he said it made sense to them. However, it shouldn't be done in the same timeframe as St. Paul did or it would be too messy. Schroeder added that the meeting in November with the haulers was a suggestion that, with licensing generally, reducing the number of haulers and performance measures. Schroeder said staff is looking for direction from Council.

Mayor Halverson said there was a certain percentage of people who want to reduce traffic and noise and organize times and restrictions when this happens. She said she would support that as our end goal. She added that we need to find a way that makes sense and is workable.

Councilmember Vitelli echoed what Mayor Halverson said and added that organized trash collection sounds good because of those reasons.

Councilmember Bellows said the issue is the number of trucks during the week. He asked if there is a way to limit the number of trucks or to one day a week. He asked if the haulers can work on this together. From his standpoint, Councilmember Bellows said he thinks that would make a huge difference.

The haulers in attendance said they need to either work with the City or with the Statute.

Councilmember Bellows said if a hauler goes out of business, it would reduce the number of licenses. He said having competition is a big difference.

The haulers said it depends on what the City decides to foster competition without limiting the number of haulers. They said the City of Lakeville reduced their numbers and that there are not excessive trucks on the street but it does foster competition.

Mayor Halverson stated that West St. Paul currently has six waste haulers. Schroeder added that this is residential hauling only.

Councilmember Iago said West St. Paul currently has 24 licensed haulers in the city. He asked if it makes sense to limit the number of days so we don't see trucks hauling six days a week.

The haulers said it needs to be clear that it will be per zone and not intended to clear the whole city in one day. One added that they have three cities in the area that do not restrict by time of day. He asked if they could also work with South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights to determine day of week restrictions so they can schedule their trucks accordingly.

Councilmember Iago said part of what the City is hearing about is noise and asked the haulers for ideas that the City could work with.

The haulers said they like the day zones because that's the advantage of Inver Grove Heights and South St. Paul and gives them a lot of options. They would prefer to

be flexible and find something that works for everyone. They also said that some haulers are going to compressed metro gas trucks which are quieter.

Mayor Halverson directed staff to stay in touch with the haulers.

Schroeder said what he is hearing is that zones work great and there is something reasonable about reducing the number of licenses and grandfathering in those that are already licensed.

Mayor Halverson thanked the haulers for coming to the meeting. The haulers added that they will be flexible and requested that the City continue talking with them.

Due to lack of time, Item B, Discussion of West St. Paul Outreach Initiative, and Item C, Committee Update and Review, were not discussed.

b. Discussion of West St. Paul Outreach Initiative

c. Committee Update and Review

5. Adjourn

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Napier to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Jenny Halverson
Mayor
City of West St. Paul