

**Greenwood City Council
Work Session Minutes**

6:00 pm, Tuesday, September 6, 2011
Deephaven City Hall ~ 20225 Cottagewood Avenue ~ Deephaven, MN 55331

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Approval Agenda

Mayor Kind called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Council members present: Fletcher, Page (6:55 pm), Quam and Rose
Others present: City Clerk Karpas

Quam moved to approve the agenda. Second by Rose. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Discuss 2012 Budget and Code Chapter 5 Fees

Mayor Kind said there were four items she would like to discuss in terms of the budget and fees. They include police expenses, Southshore Center contribution, marina fund transfer/fee and miscellaneous fees.

The Council decided to start with a discussion of fees and agreed to the following fee amendments; raising the Landscape Security Deposit fee from \$750 to \$1,500, raising the Blasting Permit fee from \$200 to \$500, and raising the fee for a city watercraft space from \$950 to \$1,100. The proposed increase in the watercraft space fee is similar to the pattern the city has followed for the last few years. The Council decided that Councilman Page would have an opportunity to give his input when the fee ordinance is on the regular council agenda for a 1st reading.

The Council agreed to increase the rental license fee for multi-unit structures from \$50 for the first unit and \$25 for each additional unit, to \$50 for the first unit and \$30 for each additional unit.

There was a suggested increase in the amount of a permit for the private use of a right of way. The council decided that there was confusion on what exactly the fee was for and how long the permit was valid for. Fletcher believed the fee amount should be based on the intensity of the use within the right of way. The council agreed to change the language on the fee table to indicate that council approval was needed and the fee would be determined by the council on a case-by-case basis.

Mayor Kind presented her research into police costs. She explained that the city needs to give 20 months notice by May 1, so a change could not be made in time to affect the 2012 budget. The soonest a change for operations could go into effect would be January 1, 2014 and that the city would be responsible for the payments for the police building through 2023. She said the City of Minnetonka had no interest in providing police services to Greenwood and the City of Deephaven hasn't given firm numbers on their costs, though they would be similar to what they charge to the City of Woodland. That being the case, the city would save only about \$10,000 annually by switching to Deephaven, if the price was the same as what Woodland pays per person. She said Hennepin County Sheriff's Department numbers could significantly drop the city's expenses and presented a few different options from basic service to more intensive service, which included three hours daily of direct police presence. The savings to the city could exceed \$100,000 annually. Councilmember Rose noted that the options allowed the city some flexibility if it felt there was too much service or not enough. Councilmember Quam said it is the Council's fiduciary responsibility to look into reducing costs for police services. Councilmember Fletcher agreed.

The Council decided to invite the Sheriff to an October worksession to answer any questions the Council may have. Councilmember Fletcher felt it was important to also hear from Chief Litsey as a means of doing due diligence. The Council will discuss inviting Chief Litsey to a worksession or Council meeting at a later time.

The Council discussed the amount of funds that should be transferred from the Marina Fund to the General Fund in 2012. Mayor Kind said the 2012 budget currently shows a transfer of \$12,000. The Council agreed to keep that amount. Councilmember Quam asked if the city had a plan for replacing the docks. Mayor Kind said the city had some options for replacement which are highlighted in the budget. She said the auditors have the docks fully depreciated in 2015, but they wouldn't have to be replaced if they were still usable. Quam said his concern is that the replacement fund is not building up quickly enough to cover the cost of replacement. It was noted that funds could be transferred from the Sewer Fund to replace the docks if the Marina Fund didn't have enough at the time they needed to be replaced.

The Council discussed the city's contribution to the Southshore Center. Mayor Kind said the amount given by the city last year was \$1,200. The recent Southshore Center annual report indicated the city's contribution would be around \$60 based on actual usage by the city's residents. Mayor Kind stated that lowering the contribution to \$60 might be too drastic, so she suggested \$500. Councilmember Fletcher felt a drop from \$1200 down to \$500 would be too drastic. The Council agreed on a 2012 budget amount of \$900.

3. Adjournment

Quam moved to adjourn. Second by Fletcher. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Gus Karpas
City Clerk