

MINUTES

Greenwood City Council Worksession

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

20225 Cottagewood Road, Deephaven, MN 55331



1. CALL TO ORDER | ROLL CALL | APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Kind called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Members Present: Mayor Kind; Councilmembers Bill Cook, Tom Fletcher, Bob Quam, and Rob Roy

Others Present: Planning Commission Chair Pat Lucking

Motion by Kind to approve the agenda. Second by Quam. Motion passed 5-0.

2. DISCUSSION WITH PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR PAT LUCKING

Councilman Fletcher explained his reasons for asking that the city council discuss the possibility of discontinuing the planning commission ...

1. To save money. The city's costs are increasing in other essential areas, so we need to look at ways to save money to avoid raising taxes.
2. To streamline the process for applicants and neighbors. It is more user-friendly for applicants and neighbors to go directly to the city council vs having to prepare for and attend two meetings.
3. The timing is right. With the recent retirements of planning commissioners Beal and Paeper, the planning commission has lost a lot of experience. While Chairman Lucking has 15 years experience, the other 4 commission members are relatively new and the 2 alternate seats are vacant.

Mayor Kind said she valued the contributions of the planning commission, but was in favor of discontinuing the planning commission for financial reasons.

Councilman Quam, Cook, and Roy stated that they did not support discontinuing the planning commission, so the remaining discussion focused on cost-saving ideas, recruitment, and training.

The consensus of the group was to ...

1. Save money by holding "housekeeping" items and ordinance reviews until planning commission meetings where variance or conditional use permits are on the agenda. This will reduce the number of planning commission meetings.
2. Save money by having the city attorney attend future planning commission and city council meetings only on an as-needed basis as determined by Chairman Lucking and Mayor Kind.
3. Consider reducing the size of the planning commission to 3 members and 3 alternates (including the city council liaison alternate) in the future to make it easier to achieve a quorum. Such a reduction would be achieved by attrition.
4. Reach out to potential candidates to apply for the 2 vacant alternate seats on the planning commission.
5. Hold mini-training sessions at the joint city council / planning commission worksession each May. Mayor Kind and Councilman Cook will determine an agenda for the upcoming joint worksession on May 18, 2016.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cook to adjourn the worksession at 6:44pm. Second by Roy. Motion passed 5-0.