



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

January 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 5:45 p.m. virtually via WebEx.

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Ben Whalen; Mary Supple; Simon Trautmann; and Sean Hayford Oleary

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director/Police Chief; Joe Powers, City Engineer; William Green, Equity and Inclusion Administrator; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Executive Analyst; and Kelly Wynn, Senior Office Assistant.

Others Present: Cyndi Harper, Manager of Route Planning, Metro Transit Service Development; John Dillery, Senior Transit Planner and connecting bus study project manager, Metro Transit Service Development; Monique M Drier-Sutton, JCPP Supervisor; Patricia Eibon, Community Liaison; and Donna Nelson, Senior Social Worker.

Item #1	PRESENTATION METRO TRANSIT ORANGE LINE BRT CONNECTING BUS ROUTE
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City Engineer Powers introduced the item and the Metro Transit employees.

Cyndi Harper presented the Orange Line connection bus study containing background; project status; project goals; study area; and concept plans with scenario A and B.

John Dillery described routes 7 and 515; routes 538, 548 and 542; and the I-494 Corridor.

Cyndi Harper spoke of key community outreach and engagement strategies.

Council Member Supple asked about the route changing to allow people easier access to the VA near the airport.

John Dillery explained with the change in the route will make the ride longer but it is more easily navigated.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked about going south from Richfield.

John Dillery stated route 535 serves Lyndale through Bloomington but it does need to be replaced. There is a new route of 534 that will also provide service in that area.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed her excitement to have these changes to come through the community.

Council Member Whalen stated appreciation for the Orange Line itself and the ability to revisit routes going east and west through Richfield.

Council Member Trautmann thanked everyone for the presentation. He spoke of the drastic changes being made to transit models and is happy to see the project moving forward.

City Manager Rodriguez explained the city has set a goal to build equity and inclusion throughout the community. She introduced William Green as the new Equity and Inclusion Administrator.

Administrator Green thanked Mayor Regan Gonzalez and Council for the opportunity to be a part of the work.

Item #2	PRESENTATION EMBEDDED SOCIAL WORKER; RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT JOINT COMMUNITY POLICE PARTNERSHIP (JCPP); AND BODY CAMERAS
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Cheif Henthorne introduced the item and speakers.

Donna Nelson gave a brief background of her work as an embedded social worker and how she has been assisting the police department. She explained how the pandemic has impacted her in-person visits with residents but she is making every attempt possible to get people the resources they need.

Council Member Whalen asked if staff is able to measure how many referrals are being made and how many repeat calls to see the impact.

Donna Nelson explained her processes of referrals so as to reduce the amount of police need to make repeat calls to resident homes.

Council Member Whalen stated it will be harder to track but would like to see where people are being connected to the right resources.

Donna Nelson stated the main goal is to connect people to the right resources but is not currently being tracked.

Chief Henthorne spoke of the growing cases of hoarding and how it brings impacts to both emotional and mental health of residents. Police officers connect residents with services but do not have the capacity to follow up to see if they are utilizing the services. He explained with Donna Nelson on board, they are hoping to be able to see how residents are progressing when connected with needed services.

Council Member supple stated she was pleased to see the wide variety of services Donna Nelson will bring to the community. She has seen a lot of evictions happen due to hoarding and having her on board could greatly impact those residents in need of help.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked Donna Nelson for the information and spoke of the long term needs and how they will impact the community.

Patricia Eibon presented on the JCPP mission; embedment of community liaisons; community programs and engagement; and training. She then spoke of the work JCPP is doing with the Richfield Police Department.

Council Member Whalen asked about the connections being made with networks and organizations and recruiting for PMAC.

Patricia Eibon explained they have reached out to many organizations and schools within Richfield and they are looking for leaders within the community.

Council Member Trautmann welcomed Patricia Eibon and reminded her of the Church of New Light. It was a Richfield church that just relocated to east Bloomington.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed excitement to have Patricia Eibon on board and to see what she can do for the community of Richfield.

Chief Henthorne spoke of all the phenomenal outreach across the board that has been done during the pandemic. He then spoke of the body camera implementation and timeline along with the new hire of Elisa Nordby as the Police Media and Data Specialist. He then gave a presentation on records management and data collection; WatchGuard V300 body cameras; key features; and RPD implementation.

Council Member Trautmann thanked Chief Henthorne for the presentation and making a methodical purchase with the body cameras.

Chief Henthorne added a report is in the works regarding expungements, pre-trial diversions and bail reform. When the report is ready, it will be presented to Council.

Council Member Hayford O'Leary asked what triggers an auto-recording and how long is it able to be retrieved.

Chief Henthorne stated there are data practice requirements along with how recordings are tagged and kept.

Council Member Whalen asked for a video for the public about the body cameras.

Chief Henthorne stated they would need to contact the vendor to see what they have for informational material. He also stated the police department is working to have weekly clips released on social media talking about the body cameras.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez spoke of how wonderful it is to have the cameras implemented and to have all the new staff additions. She expressed appreciation for the police department and all they continue to do for the community.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:58 p.m.

Date Approved: February 09, 2021



Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager



Kelly Wynn
Senior Office Assistant