



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

April 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Supple called the work session to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

Council Members Present: Mary Supple, Sharon Christensen, Simon Trautmann, Sean Hayford Oleary

Council Members Absent: Ben Whalen

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Sack Thongvanh, Assistant City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Scott Kulzer, Administrative Analyst; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; Russ Lupkes, Utilities Superintendent; and Chris Swanson, Management Analyst

ITEM #1	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST, SCOTT KULZER, WILL BRIEFLY PRESENT THE FRAMEWORK FOR A PROPOSED PROGRAM THAT WOULD ALLOW RICHFIELD PROPERTY OWNERS TO HAVE CHARGES RESULTING FROM THE REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF PRIVATE SANITARY SEWER SERVICE LINES APPLIED TO THE PARCEL'S PROPERTY TAXES VIA SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
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City Manager Rodriguez introduced the topic and Administrative Analyst Kulzer to Council.

Administrative Analyst Kulzer gave the report to Council including background information, sewer line issues, common repair options, details about the special assessment program, and considerations for approval.

Mayor Supple asked if bad soil quality could affect the sewer lines and if parts of the city with poor soil quality have more issues. Public Works Director Asher stated the problem areas are scattered and not affected by soil quality.

Council Member Trautmann asked if instead of charging interest, if staff could charge a fee so Muslim residents could participate in the program. Administrative Analyst Kulzer stated they could make that change.

Mayor Supple read a statement from absent Council Member Whalen who stated he fully supported the program and wrote about personal experiences he had with having to replace a sewer line.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked if the program was only for emergency repairs or if residents could request proactive repairs. Administrative Analyst Kulzer stated residents could participate in the program proactively.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked if the 5-year payment plan was the default option and why that was chosen. Administrative Analyst Kulzer stated the 5-year payment plan was easiest to administer and track.

Council Member Hayford Oleary suggested the city promote the program to residents rather than just work with residents who called in with sewer line issues. He stated that some residents may not think to contact City Hall for help when they have sewer line issues.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked if there was any risk of contractors taking advantage of residents knowing the city has this program available. Utilities Superintendent Lupkes stated staff would advise residents to stay local when receiving quotes but there was a risk of contractors raising prices to take advantage of people. Administrative Analyst Kulzer stated they would encourage residents to get multiple quotes. City Manager Rodriguez suggested having staff make multiple quotes a requirement.

Mayor Supple stated she was grateful for staff coming up with a way to help residents with financial hardships.

Council Members came to consensus and stated they supported the program with the 5-year plan.

Administrative Analyst Kulzer gave a short update on the city's Emerald Ash Borer program. He stated he has received interest from about 30 residents so far. He further stated there would be a Council memo regarding the program in the next month.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Supple adjourned the work session at 6:54 pm

Date Approved: April 25, 2023



Dustin Leslie
City Clerk



Mary B. Supple
Mayor



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager