



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

April 13, 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, Chief of Police; Martin Costello, City Prosecutor; Jane Skov, IT Manager; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Executive Analyst; and Kelly Wynn, Senior Office Assistant.

Item #1	REVIEW THE PRE-TRAIL DIVERSION, EXPUNGEMENTS, AND BAIL REFORM AS IT RELATES TO THE CITY OF RICHFIELD PROSECUTIONS.
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Attorney Costello presented on a variety of items including:

- Explanation of a municipal prosecutor;
- Difference between a civil city attorney and county attorney;
- Duties of a municipal prosecutor;
- Prosecuting criminal and traffic offenses;
- Prosecuting ordinance violations; and
- Bail, diversion and expungement in a criminal prosecution.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked if fines are not a main part of punishment.

Attorney Costello explained the fines are defined by legislators and has not kept up with inflation rate. Therefore, a judge has the opportunity to adjust time served and community service.

Council Member Hayford Oleary stated concern with the various options available, seem to favor wealthy people.

Attorney Costello stated that is a valid critique of the justice system which often describes privileged people. He spoke of the constant struggle to encompass all people and life situations.

Council Member Whalen suggested going away from a cash bail system. He would also like to see systems put in place where individuals who have the opportunity to get their record expunged, be able to take advantage from start instead of having to jump through hoops later on in the process.

Attorney Costello commented on various states doing away with cash bail but stated some concerns.

Council Member Trautmann thanked Attorney Costello for the presentation and frank assessment of the short comings of the justice system. He requested future discussions on tackling the challenges within the system.

Attorney Costello supplied his personal background and stated some challenges he has faced in his career. He also stated he would take any comments or concerns and have future discussions to address the comments.

Council Member Supple thanked Attorney Costello for the comprehensive report.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez reiterated the changes to cash bail would need to be made at the state level.

Attorney Costello commented that at the state level there are some adjustments but Minnesota constitutional law states all offenses are bailable.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked Attorney Costello for acknowledging the inequities and wondered how the council and public safety could work together to move change forward.

Attorney Costello stated the city could develop ordinances to begin instituting some change. He also commented that policies and best practices should be developed to encompass all situations and the department (Public Safety Department) will begin to review next steps and let council decide on timeline.

Chief Henthorne stated that they can look at best practices and next steps, discuss with City Manager Rodriguez and then she share with council.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:51 p.m.


Date Approved: April 27, 2021



Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor



Kelly Wynn
Senior Office Assistant



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager