



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

August 10, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 5:32 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

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

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Amy Markle, Recreation Services Director; Chris Link, Operations Superintendent; Jay Henthorne, Police Chief; Nellie Jerome, Assistant Planner; Mike Dobesh, Fire Chief; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; John Stark, Community Development Director; Neil Ruhland, Communications and Engagement Manager; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Equity Administrator; and Kelly Wynn, Administrative Assistant

Item #1	CONSIDER A WINTER PARKING PILOT PROGRAM TO ADVANCE EQUITY CENTER APPROACHES TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS NEEDED TO CLEAR THE ROADS OF SNOW FOLLOWING A SIGNIFICANT SNOW EVENT.
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City Manager Rodriguez provided a brief overview of items.

Operations Superintendent Link supplied background and reasons for snow plowing, snow plow districts and current snow emergency procedures.

Equity Administrator Martinez Gavina introduced why this pilot program is necessary in regards to every department.

Operations Superintendent Link described a map involving 2019 and 2020 snow emergency tows.

Equity Administrator Martinez Gavina continued with how each department will analyze data from the project.

Chief Henthorne stated they receive many complaints on why there are so many residents ticketed but they also get just as many complaints as to why there isn't more ticketing and towing. This results in 30-40 complaints per area.

Council Member Trautmann asked if tow trucks are still called even after roads are cleared and a ticket is already given

Chief Henthorne stated tow trucks will still come through so snow plows can clean up previously plowed streets.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked how medial complaints are handled.

Chief Henthorne stated officers will go out and see if the complaint warrants a ticket/tow as there are many residential areas that are problematic.

Operations Superintendent Link spoke of how tagging and towing isn't an exact science.

Equity Administrator Martinez Gavina continued with stakeholder involvement. She then spoke of how to determine benefit and/or burden and advance opportunity along with minimizing harm to communities.

Operations Superintendent Link described the pilot program details.

Council Member Supple asked about how the outlined areas are currently being utilized.

Operations Superintendent Link explained the areas of no parking currently.

Council Member Whalen asked about alternate places for people to park in apartments when the complexes need to clear lots along with streets.

Chief Henthorne stated they are currently working with complexes in rotating areas for towing purposes.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked what would happen if there are 2.5 inches of snow two days in a row.

Operations Superintendent Link explained it is always the plan to get the plows through as fast as possible as many times as possible. A snowfall of about 6 inches is all the trucks can safely push.

Council Member Whalen asked for clarification on snow emergencies.

Operations Superintendent Link stated staff plows snow a lot and nothing is going to change plowing wise but the change will be when a snow emergency will be declared.

Council Member Trautmann spoke of challenges when multiple people are renting a house and having lack of space to park.

Operations Superintendent Link reiterated why it is a good idea to pilot this program and work out the kinks before expanding to more locations.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked about adopting a plan like Minneapolis.

Operations Superintendent Link stated he is not a fan of the Minneapolis snow emergency style as Richfield is different in that there are wider streets and there are many complexes that have parking lots. It is also important to have the ability to get on the roads before things get packed down and affect the infrastructure of the roads.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked about the possibility to have a specific time notifications would go out regarding a snow emergency.

Operations Superintendent Link stated staff does everything possible to get notifications out about an upcoming snow emergency by 6 p.m.

Council Member Hayford Oleary expressed excitement to see the program take shape as it is greatly needed.

Council Member Trautmann agreed with Richfield plows doing exceedingly well and expressed gratitude for supporting areas and communities that were historically excluded.

Council Member Whalen believes a key piece will be communicating about communicating to let people know what avenues are already in place for notifications. He would like to continue to see a prioritization to sidewalks for resident use.

Operations Superintendent Link stated staff will continue to prioritize sidewalks and trails and will begin including the 'why' into communications.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked staff for the extensive work to continue fantastic core services. The equity work should not be on top of the work already happening but looking at the work happening and how to incorporate and embedding it.

Operations Superintendent Link provided next steps to incorporate the pilot program this year.

Item #2	REVIEW OF THE PRELIMINARY EQUITY PLAN FOR THE CITY OF RICHFIELD.
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Equity Administrator Martinez Gavina reviewed the preliminary equity plan update:

- City of Richfield's equity work
- Role of equity administrator
- Description of three phases of preliminary equity plan
- What equity can be like within Richfield
- Highlights of equity work in 2020 and 2021 along with each department

Director Markle added how parks and recreation are deep diving into finding barriers that prevent residents from participating in programming.

Equity Administrator Martinez Gavina continued with how departments are incorporating equity and the CAREs team work over the last few years along with a description of the newly added subcommittees.

Director Markle explained the subcommittees involving staff resources, education and training.

Assistant Planner Jerome reviewed the Richfield equity and inclusion toolkit/lens, recommendations and future steps.

Equity Administrator Martinez Gavina would like to get information on who is missing from the conversation by using the diversity wheel and bring all the voices to the table. She explained how this will align with strategic planning and bring community along so they are included in the work. She spoke of how staff will continue to develop a plan to provide more details and continue to work with each department.

Council Member Supple thanked staff for all the participation and she is excited to see benchmarks on data gathered.

Council Member Whalen appreciated the focus on data and outcomes along with what the impacts are in the community.

Council Member Trautmann thanked staff and believes using the lens will prove to be a powerful tool.

Council Member Hayford Oleary expressed appreciation for specific example provided as described for each department.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked staff for the presentation. She iterated her previous comments of embedding these ideas into work already happening.

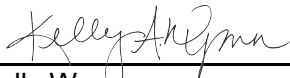
ADJOURNMENT

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

Date Approved: September 14, 2021



Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor



Kelly Wynn
Administrative Assistant



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager