



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

October 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 5:00 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Mary Supple; Simon Trautmann (arrived 5:25pm); Sean Hayford Oleary; and Ben Whalen

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; John Stark, Community Development Director; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Equity Administrator; Chris Swanson, Management Analyst; and Kari Sinning, City Clerk

ITEM #1	CONSIDER THE PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
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City Manager Rodriguez introduced our lobbyists Ann Lenczewski and Angie Huss, Equity Administrator Blanca Martinez Gavina, and Management Analyst Chris Swanson for the presentation.

Equity Administrator Martinez Gavina gave an overview of the current legislative process.

Management Analyst Swanson stated the proposed changes to the current legislative process.

Equity Administrator Martinez Gavina broke down the specific changes of the proposed changes and introduced our lobbyist, Ann Lenczewski, who stated her background and the need for the legislative support for the city and how the city can support the state and federal legislature that affects the city directly. Lobbyist Lenczewski also gave advice about how to address the legislators to be the most effective for our community. Lobbyist Angie Huss clarified that there should be issues initiated by the city and there are issues that the city would be supportive/opposed to so that legislators know where to focus.

Council Member Whalen asked for clarification of how to support community issues that are at a state level. Lobbyist Lenczewski recommended having the delineation of testifying on the behalf themselves as a private citizen or on behalf of the city. City Manager Rodriguez gave a couple of examples.

Management Analyst Swanson gave a summary and an overview of the next steps.

Council Member Supple supported the idea of the council adopting and voting on the legislative priorities.

Council Member Hayford Oleary supported the clarification of the process and had a few questions regarding the internal political policies, the timeline of approval by council, and the number of legislative topics brought forward by the city. Management Analyst Swanson clarified his first and second questions stating that this is a city staff policy that would be updated to be more clear to staff

and that a work session would be brought forward to council at a later date. City Manager Rodriguez described how legislative topics would be brought forward by staff as a part of the legislative process.

Council Member Supple asked for a verification of the timeline of which City Manager Rodriguez stated the proposed dates.

Council Member Whalen echoed Council Member Hayford Oleary’s point of making the legislative priorities more cohesive to the top priorities of the city and showed excitement about the testifying policy updates. City Manager Rodriguez is hoping that this will make it clear to all employees of the city of our policies of those that testify on behalf of the city or on behalf of themselves.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez approves the of policy changes and would like to see that council and staff are all aware of the policies. Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed excitement that we are moving in the right direction and would love to see more communication out to the residents regarding these legislative processes.

Council Member Whalen appreciated the lobbyists’ updates.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked the lobbyists for their continued support of this growing city and thanked staff for their leadership.

Lobbyist Lenczewski thanked the city for the help that we can provide for their process.

Council Member Trautmann also thanked the lobbyists and city staff for their contributions to the city.

ITEM #2	PRESENTATION BY STATE DEMOGRAPHER SUSAN BROWER
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City Manager Rodriguez introduced State Demographer Susan Brower.

State Demographer Brower gave an overview of the demographics of the country, state, county, and city.

Council Members discussed the growth areas of the city and how the data collected may be skewed due to the populations of Richfield that have changed since the census data was collected.

Community Development Director Stark agreed with Council Members and the Mayor regarding the data collected.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked State Demographer Brower for her contribution to the process.

Council Member Supple asked about State Demographer Brower’s role in redistricting.

Council Member Whalen asked about the timeline of redistricting. State Demographer Brower shared that Feb 2022 is the deadline for Legislative boundaries.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked about redistricting for the city wards. City Clerk Sinning stated that Hennepin County helps with this process and will know more information after the school board election.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez stated that seeing this data helps solidify our core value of being equitable to all our residents and reiterated that the census really shows who we are as a city and how we can use this data to help our work.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:29 p.m.

Date Approved: October 26, 2021

Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor

Kari Sinning
City Clerk

Katie Rodriguez
City Manager