



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

October 24, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Supple called the work session to order at 5:45 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

Council Members Present: Mary Supple, Mayor; Sean Hayford O'leary; Ben Whalen; Simon Trautmann; and Sharon Christensen

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Chris Swanson, Management Analyst; Chad Donnelly, Assistant Utility Superintendent; Joe Powers, City Engineer; Brad Drayna, Police Lieutenant; Matt Hardegger, Transportation Engineer; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director.

ITEM #1	FINDINGS OF THE WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECT EVALUATION.
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City Manager Rodriguez introduced the topics to Council and introduced Assistant Utility Superintendent Donnelly to Council.

Assistant Utility Superintendent Donnelly gave the presentation covering background of the project, project purpose, goals, analysis of alternatives, interconnect locations, staff findings, and recommended actions. He noted that the Minneapolis interconnection is the recommendation.

Council Member Hayford O'leary stated he was ok with the staff recommendation and spoke about how Richfield could be affected by a disaster interrupting the city's water supply. He asked staff if the ground water used by Richfield were to run out, would they be able to get water from Minneapolis? Assistant Utility Superintendent Donnelly stated the city would be able to draw water from Minneapolis in that event.

Staff and Council spoke about eventually needing to replace the water treatment plant and having a connection to Minneapolis could provide a new option or a temporary option if a new water treatment plant was ever built.

Mayor Supple agreed that the Minneapolis option made the most sense. Staff stated they wanted to make sure Council did not want to go with the Bloomington option. The council agreed with staff about not wanting the Bloomington connection.

ITEM #2	STAFF WILL PRESENT AN UPDATE ON THE ONGOING LOCAL SPEED LIMIT STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A PROPOSED SIGNING AND SPEED LIMIT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND A PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.
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Transportation Engineer Hardegger gave the presentation covering speed limit proposals, methodology, 2022-2023 speed data, and data for 76th and 77th streets.

There was a general conversation between staff and council regarding speeds along the 77th Street corridor as well as addressing inequities in changing the speed limits.

City Engineer Powers spoke about a possible grant opportunity the city applied for that would help look at design changes to the 77th Street corridor. He also spoke about response changes if speed limits were updated.

Mayor Supple spoke about the benefits of adding sidewalks and making them ADA accessible.

Council Member Hayford Oleary and Mayor Supple spoke about their preferences for speed limits on certain streets within the city. Council Member Whalen asked the police department to comment on enforcement. Lieutenant Drayna stated the police department enforces speed limits throughout the city equally and spoke about crash data.

City staff finished the presentation by talking about ordinance language and resolution language that would be presented at a future Council meeting.

Communications Strategist Scott Barshun gave a presentation about the Richfield Drives 25 communication campaign and how it would be advertised.

The Mayor and Council Members gave feedback regarding the campaign, including less use of blurry images and more use of people.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Supple adjourned the work session at 6:55 pm.

Date Approved: November 14, 2023



Dustin Leslie
City Clerk



Mary B. Supple
Mayor



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager