



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

November 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 5:47p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

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

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Chris Swanson, Management Analyst; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director; Joe Powers, City Engineer; and Kari Sinning, City Clerk

ITEM #1	CONSIDER THE CITY'S PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2022
----------------	---

City Manager Rodriguez introduced Management Analyst Swanson who gave a presentation that described the past legislative priorities, reimagining the process, and the 2022 legislative priorities.

Council Member Supple agreed with the top priorities and asked about the presumption clause in the administrative section of the proposed legislative positions. City Manager Rodriguez stated that we would like to get more clarity on the presumption clause for PTSD/Covid and more funding to help recognize and treat PTSD. Council Member Supple commented that she would be in support for more funding.

Council Member Whalen questioned playing defense on a couple of the top priorities. City Manager Rodriguez stated that these priorities were created with our lobbyists who identified that these could be issues that we would have to play defense on. Council Member Whalen agrees with the top priorities and appreciated the explanation. City Manager Rodriguez explained that it is better to be prepared for the priorities that we take a defensive stand because they can move quickly.

Council Member Whalen questioned the title of the introductory section. There was discussion among council and staff regarding a change of the title or possibly adding the city's mission, vision, and values to the section to correlate more with our goals. City Manager Rodriguez explained that guidance from the lobbyists was to keep this section short and not to add a lot of issues that were not specific to the city. City Manager Rodriguez also stated that staff could incorporate the mission, vision, and values into the section once they are completed. There was a general consensus to change or remove the title of the introductory section.

Council Member Hayford Oleary expressed concern for a community development position that supports local control and opposes zoning pre-emption bills and requested the removal of “one-size-fits-all regulations” from the section. Council Member Hayford Oleary also commented that he liked to see that Public Works did not have any highway funding requests as a legislative priority.

Council Member Whalen asked about local match for housing trust funds and City Manager Rodriguez stated that she will follow up on it.

Council Member Whalen also asked about creating a separate section for sustainability. City Manager Rodriguez stated that currently the positions are divided by department and eventually it would be a cohesive document.

Council Member Whalen asked about the Coleman Act Law. Management Analyst Swanson gave a brief description of the law and would follow up with the liquor stores director for a better summary.

Council Member Whalen asked for input from staff and council regarding the process and community engagement surrounding the support of race included on State issued identification cards for the purpose of data collection. City Manager Rodriguez stated that research from other cities concluded that this would be the best route to collect this data and that it is not something that would be printed physically on the identification card. Police Chief Henthorne spoke about the need for the data to be collected and why this would be the best way to collect the data for the community. Council Member Whalen asked about gaining community support for the method of collection. Police Chief Henthorne explained that some communities have already gotten feedback and will be addressed at the legislative session.

Council Member Supple followed up with comments given by Council Member Whalen and suggested to change the title in recreation to recreation and sustainability. Also, Council Member Supple asked for more clear indication of why race would be included on State issued identification cards which would be to analyze the data.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked about topics that are not a part of the legislative priorities and how to explain the process to the community members. City Manager Rodriguez explained that strictly legislative topics should be brought up now but other topics would be a part of the strategic planning.

Council Member Hayford Oleary asked about camera based traffic enforcement. Police Chief Henthorne explained that it is something that could be brought up to the legislation and stated the enforcement would make the department’s job safer and easier.

City Manager Rodriguez summarized the work session: 1) change/remove the title on the introduction; 2) gather more info on the presumption clause; 3) ask community development about local match housing trust funds; 4) strike the language for “one-size-fits-all regulations”; 5) further clarify the reason to collect race data via state issued identification cards; 6) do research for camera based traffic enforcement; and 7) change title to “Recreation and Sustainability”. Council Member Whalen stated that house and senate bill numbers will change and City Manager Rodriguez stated that they will be removed and the topics will be inserted.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez echoed gathering community input regarding race on driver’s licenses and stated the importance of collecting data to advance equity, protect privacy, and the importance of de-weaponizing the data. Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked staff for the preparedness for this legislative work.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:26 p.m.

Date Approved: November 23, 2021



Kari Sinning
City Clerk



Mary B. Supple, Mayor Pro Tempore



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager