

Cambridge City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, June 21, 2021

A special meeting of the Cambridge City Council was held on Monday, June 21, 2021, at Cambridge City Hall Council Chambers, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, Minnesota, 55008.

Members Present: Mayor James Godfrey; Council Members Lisa Iverson, Kersten Conley, and Bob Shogren.

Members Absent: Council Member Mark Ziebarth.

Staff Present: City Administrator Vogel, Assistant City Administrator Lewis, Police Chief Schuster, Finance Director Moe, Utilities/Public Works Director Schwab, City Engineer Blank, and Emergency Management Director/Deputy Fire Chief Pennings.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Godfrey called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Iverson moved, seconded by Shogren, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Update to Long Range Plan and 2022 Budget and Levy Discussions

Update on Budget Impact Related to American Rescue Plan

Moe stated the United States government has passed the American Rescue Plan Act which will allot roughly \$100 per capita for the City of Cambridge. This will amount to the City receiving about \$900,000 from the state, and will be divided between this year and next year. Moe said there are specific things the funds can be used for including the support of public health response, replacing public sector revenue loss, funding water and sewer infrastructure projects, addressing negative economic impacts, covering premium pay for essential employees, and broadband infrastructure. Things the funding cannot cover are reducing debt service funds, covering non-water projects, reducing taxes, and other. Moe did say they could swap some of the project costs for water projects with this American Rescue Plan funding, but there are limits on the timing of the projects. Discussion ensued about what the council members thought would be good uses of the funds to bring about the most benefit to the residents. They decided their top three priorities would be water projects including the Garfield Street extension and downtown fire suppression project, and supporting broadband infrastructure.

2022 Budget and Levy Recommendations/Street Improvement Plan/Preliminary 2022 Levy

Moe reviewed the Levy Projections from 2022 through 2031. She said all department heads have turned in all of their funding requests for the next year. Moe explained the various levels of increase in the levy from one year to the next, and explained how the upcoming street improvement projects were the driving force in the differences in the levy increases. She identified different ways the city can pay for the costs of these projects, along with ways to even out the fluctuating levy increases from year to year. She said the goal is to replace streets in the most efficient manner while utilizing

the most cost-effective strategies when planning street improvement projects. The council reviewed the schedule for street improvement projects for the next ten years and compared it with the levy projections.

Moe said another event affecting the levy that will be happening in 2022, is TIF Districts 6-9 and 6-11 will be coming back on the tax roll to help reduce the levy. She suggested also using excess funds from Northbound Liquor to help pay for park capital as a way for managing levy increases. The council had some discussion on staffing changes and how it would affect the budget as well.

Moe said the council would also need to work on their vision and plan for what they would like to accomplish within the city into the future. This strategic planning would help them to create their priorities, provide better direction to staff, and better determine how funds will get allocated. She said setting these goals will help develop strategies to make these plans come to fruition. The council members discussed setting the preliminary levy to be used as a base line for upcoming meetings.

Budget for Audit Services

Moe noted that the City had a three-year contact with Redpath for Budget Auditing Services. She wanted to know if the council wanted to extend the contract for two more years, or if they wanted to seek services elsewhere. The council felt they were happy with the work Redpath has done and liked the rapport they had with staff, and expressed their wish to extend the contract with Redpath for two more years.

Next Steps for Communication and Engagement of Public

Conley said she was still recommending residents to check out the Balancing Act program to see how changes to the budget would impact a resident's taxes. Godfrey wanted to utilize an ice cream social again to reach out to residents by presenting information during the social and having discussion. Various dates and options for hosting the ice cream social were discussed, and will be determined at an upcoming meeting.

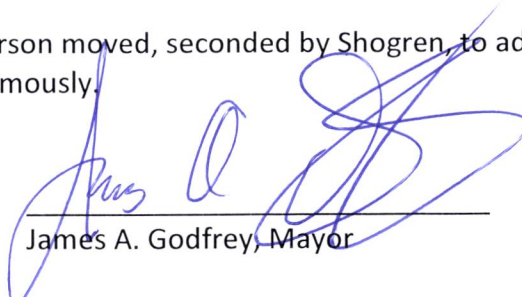
Adjournment of Council Meeting

Being no further business before the City Council, Iverson moved, seconded by Shogren, to adjourn the special meeting at 5:31 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Evan Vogel, City Administrator



James A. Godfrey, Mayor