

MINUTES
City Council Work Session – January 31, 2024

CALL TO ORDER ROLL CALL

6:00 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice a City Council work session was held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Keith Wettschreck, Council Members Ryan Gleason, Joe Hagerty, Tom Hamilton and Scott Pedersen (via Zoom); Staff Present: City Administrator Steve Bot (in 7:51); Nick Preisler (in 7:51); Community Development Director Marc Weigle; and Deputy Clerk Amy Weitalla.

Community Development Director Marc Weigle added a potential concrete mixing plant for the County 35 Road Project to the agenda. Council Members Gleason/Hamilton **moved** to approve the agenda as amended. All voted aye.

Planning Commission and EDA Interviews. The Council interviewed applicants for one open position on the Planning Commission and one open position on the Economic Development Authority.

The term for Shannan Marshall was up on the Planning Commission and she wished to be reappointed. Those interviewed included: Donald “DJ” Jahn, Eric Johnson, Samantha “Sam” Ristow, Ted Sirianni, Albert “Al” Smith, Laura Bistodeau, Debbie Krajsa, Shannan Marshall, Tim Pomeroy, and Evan Pukal.

The term for Phil Hines was up on the EDA, and his job had been taking him out of state more frequently, so he has declined to seek another term. The Council also conducted interviews of Donald Jahn, Eric Johnson, Samantha Ristow, Ted Sirianni, Albert Smith, Jack Steffl, and Carrie Miller for the Economic Development Authority.

The questions asked included: what do you like about St. Michael, what influenced you to apply for the boards, can you make an objective decision, are you committed to making meetings – particularly for EDA during the work day, what can the City do better through P&Z or EDA.

Council Members Gleason/Hamilton **moved** to recess the meeting at 7:39 p.m. to hold the Special Meeting to make appointments. All voted aye.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:51 p.m.

Concrete Mixing Plant. Weigle stated a subcontractor for the County 35 road project requested permission to set up a temporary concrete plant for the project on Omann Brothers site at the southeast corner of Naber Avenue and State Highway 241. They had a plant there years ago with the TH 241 project with no issues and would restore the site after taken down. The plant was scheduled to be used for 2 weeks in June or July and 1 week in September, and only for that project. The consensus of the Council was that they were okay with this temporary plant. Weigle will ask the subcontractor to put up a temporary sign stating it is a temporary plant to inform the public.

Solar Energy Systems Review. Weigle reviewed the current solar ordinance and pointed out the size limits on solar systems. He mentioned there is a state statute saying if a solar energy system is proposed that is 50 megawatts or greater it is considered a utility scale project. In this case, the City’s ordinance would no longer apply and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission would have the authority to approve or deny. Staff has heard that solar companies are talking with landowners in St. Michael about projects like this, in part due to extra capacity in certain transmission lines from the Becker Sherco coal plant being wound down in phases. Council Members directed staff to look into

a couple things and report back.

2024 Goals. City Administrator Steve Bot first reviewed last year’s goals and discussed how they were achieved, or progress was made. He also handed out the 2024 Goals and Priorities form and asked Councilmembers to bring their completed forms back to the February 13th meeting. Hamilton encouraged staff to add goals to the list as well.

Adjourn. Council Members Gleason/Hagerty **moved** to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. All voted aye.

Attest:

Deputy Clerk

Mayor