



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

Virtual meeting held via WebEx

June 23, 2020

| |
|----------------------|
| CALL TO ORDER |
|----------------------|

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 5:47 p.m. held via WebEx

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Edwina Garcia; Mary Supple; and Ben Whalen

Council Members Absent: Simon Trautmann

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Executive Analyst; and Kelly Wynn, Senior Office Assistant

Others Present: Ann Lenczewski, State Government Relations

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Item #1 | DISCUSSION OF CITY COUNCIL SALARIES |
|----------------|--|

City Manager Rodriguez provided a brief background on the discussion and council will be setting the pay rate for city council for 2021 and 2022.

Council Member Supple recommended council take no increase in pay due to the pandemic to help conserve costs for the city.

Council Member Garcia agreed with Council Member Supple and would support no increase in salary.

Council Member Whalen stated he wouldn't be opposed to an increase. He believes council should be compensated for the time it takes for the position. He also spoke of the efforts it takes on top of a full time job.

Council Member Garcia spoke of how the pandemic has affected everyone in so many ways and she would feel uncomfortable taking an increase at this time. She also touched on how people do the job for the community and not for the money.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez read the following points submitted by Council Member Trautmann:

- This job is not done for the pay
- Would not be in support of any big increase
- May deter future residents from applying knowing how little the pay is for the position

Mayor Regan Gonzalez supported no increase as a symbolic gesture during these times involving the pandemic.

Council Member Whalen clarified council will be setting the pay rate for the next two years and asked if the item could be revisited in a year if pandemic is beginning to pass.

City Manager Rodriguez confirmed they could revisit the item if desired.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked if staff could bring back two options for council to vote on since Council Member Trautmann is not present.

City Manager Rodriguez asked council to weigh in the option of zero percent increase for 2021 and to revisit the item in regards to the 2022 rate.

Council Member Supple showed support of a zero percent increase for the next two years with the uncertainty of the affects the pandemic will have on the city long term.

Council Member Garcia supported Council Member Supple’s statement.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez recommended assessing the situation on a yearly basis until the effects of the pandemic are manageable.

City Manager Rodriguez confirmed the goal of the review is to have council set the rate for the next two years, until the next election. She said she would gather some financial indicators to help better support a decision.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Item #2 | LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM ANN LENCZEWSKI |
|----------------|---|

City Manager Rodriguez introduced Ann Lenczewski and what she will be reviewing in her update.

Ann Lenczewski gave a brief background of her work and how busy the session has been with so many decisions being made regarding COVID-19 along with the unfortunate incident involving George Floyd. She spoke on the bipartisan approach that has been taken to get items through for Richfield. She also touched on:

- Wood Lake Nature Center project
- 77 Underpass
- Worker’s compensation for First Responders
- Splitting of federal money and how it may be spent

Council Member Supple wondered if money spent through the HRA and EDA for financial assistance could be replaced with federal money.

Ann Lenczewski said those guidelines are unclear at this time. The League of MN Cities is attempting to set up rules.

Council Member Whalen would like to also use the money for rental and eviction assistance if possible.

Ann Lenczewski stated the Governor may extend the eviction moratorium as well so it is necessary to keep that in mind.

Council Member Garcia spoke of this being the first time a lobbyist has come to report to council and she would rather communicate directly with legislators.

City Manager Rodriguez commented on being able to have legislators also come to report in the future. She then spoke on how the city has been tracking expenses related to COVID-19 in the hopes of being reimbursed in the future.

Council Member Whalen questioned if the city is still short on laptops and if the federal money would cover technology needs.

City Manager Rodriguez stated they are exploring all avenues on how the money will be eligible for spending but the guidelines are extremely broad right now and the city is waiting for more direction.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez commented on the excellent work legislators are doing to support Richfield. She also asked for more information on how police reform and other changes may be adopted.

Ann Lenczewski believes many have been misunderstanding what people of color have been saying in which is there can be no compromise on justice. She also briefly spoke on the following:

- Potential residency requirements for law enforcement
- Arbitration issue
- 77 Underpass not included in last bonding bill

Council Member Garcia would like to see a non-partisan approach and her dislike of multiple parties. She believes everyone should be able to work together.

Ann Lenczewski agreed people need to work together.

Council Member Supple thanked everyone for all their hard work.

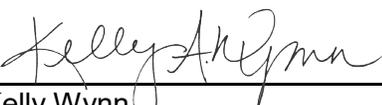
Mayor Regan Gonzalez thanked Ann Lenczewski for attending and reporting. She expressed her hope to utilize this chance to implement a lot of change.

Council Member Garcia thanked Ann Lenczewski for all the daily updates she has been supplying the council and staff.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:33 p.m.

Date Approved: July 14, 2020



 Kelly Wynn
 Senior Office Assistant



 Maria Regan Gonzalez
 Mayor



 Katie Rodriguez
 City Manager