



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

August 13, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 6:00 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

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

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Amy Markle, Recreation Services Director; Kris Weiby, Facilities Manger; Bob Baltgalvis, Recreation Supervisor – Facilities; Chris Regis, Finance Director; Neil Ruhland, Communication and Engagement Manager; and Kari Sinning, Deputy City Clerk.

Item #1	RICHFIELD ICE ARENA REFRIGERATION PROJECT INFORMATION AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS
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City Manager Rodriguez introduced Recreation Services Director Markle.

Recreation Services Director Markle gave brief introduction of how the ice arena is currently being used and introduced Kris Weiby, Facilities Manager to the Council.

Facilities Manager Weiby presented a history of the ice rinks and the organizations that use the rinks. The Minnesota Magicians, a Tier II junior ice hockey team, is sponsored by many Richfield businesses and promotes the economic growth here in Richfield. The hope is to diversify the facilities use with the project by holding dry events, such as vendor fairs, soccer events, and tournaments.

Council Member Garcia asked about the ban of R-22 Refrigeration and if it costs more. Recreation Services Director Markle stated that the EPA has banned R-22 Refrigeration and Facilities Manager Weiby stated that we would save money on the conversion.

Council Member Trautmann asked about stock piling and the resale of R-22. Facilities Manager Weiby shared that we can't really stock pile it because of the cost and the resale price of R-22 is depreciated if used. Council Member Trautmann hopes that this will make Richfield a destination city.

Council Member Whalen asked about the turnaround time between ice arena events and dry use events. Recreation Supervisor Baltgalvis stated that it could take as long as a week but could be around three days if needed. He also stated that the facilities could continually be dry floor during the months of April to October. Council Member Whalen also asked about the loss of revenue during construction which Facilities Manager Weiby stated that it could be about \$450,000.

Facilities Manager Weiby stated that this would save the City \$5000 per year in maintenance costs. Recreation Services Director Markle went over the projected costs and how the project could be funded. Finance Director Regis shared a history of the golf course funds and how the funds could be best used for this project. Council Member Trautmann asked about any County level grants of

which Recreation Services Manager Markle stated that they could apply for them but it's based upon the urgency of the project.

Council Member Supple thanked Staff for the information and understands why there is a need for the project.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked if there will be any community feedback. Recreation Services Director Markle stated that there will be open houses and tours available to answer any questions that residents may have about the project and stated that the project will be up for Council consideration in an October meeting.

City Manager Rodriguez stated that seeking feedback from the community is important and it will be clear to the residents on how this will open the door for new opportunities for growth within the City.

Council Member Trautmann applauded the commitment and passion that Staff has for the project and it will help make this a great addition for our residents.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:56 p.m.

Date Approved: September 10, 2019

Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor

Kari Sinning
Deputy City Clerk

Katie Rodriguez
City Manager