

City Council Workshop

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Present: Wendy Ward, Gwen Roden, Lon Pardun, Kevin Nyenhuis

Absent: Charlie Anderson

Citizens present: Scott Spisak, Kitz Vadheim, Win Miller, Glen Mills

Mayor Nyenhuis called the workshop to order at 6:00pm. The purpose of this workshop is to review the current long/short goals along with new items. Mayor Nyenhuis has put together a matrix for each item with columns noting a timeline, such as 1 year, 2-5 years, 6-10 years and master CIP. (attached)

Public Safety

- **Recruitment and Retention** – Pardun noted that the department has historically had an ongoing recruitment push and the Council has always been there to support them financially. Pardun believes this item should stay, along with all items under Public Safety. Ward noted that Councilmember Anderson suggested this item become its own separate meeting to discuss this issue with Council and the Chief.

Roads

- **Salt Practice** – Ward noted that there is a questioning of salt impacts on a state, county and local level and would like to see a full conversation on this subject. Mayor Nyenhuis believes the County uses excessive amounts of salt and that the City should be in dialog with them regarding our concerns. Pardun noted that Tommy has contacted the County and Stillwater to do a test with the liquid salt and they are not willing to apply in Marine due to potential liability. Pardun also does not believe it is cost effective for a City our size to use this product. Mayor Nyenhuis would like to see Public Works give a report at the end of the winter season.

Personnel

- **Assessing future needs** – Mayor Nyenhuis believes the City staff handles a large volume of daily tasks and would like to review potential future needs in term of increased hours, additional staff etc. Currently things are going well, but will touch base as an on-going issue.

Park and Rec

- **Gateway** – Ward noted there is a sub committee in the new parks and trails committee that has this on their radar. Mayor Nyenhuis would like to see that stay on their radar but does not believe this needs to remain on the monthly list.
- **Highway 95 Bike Trail** – Roden questioned if this item should be discussed at budget time rather than become a monthly item. Pardun would like to see money put away in the budget and should be a 2-5 year discussion. Nyenhuis would like to see potential grants and discussion was held as to whether this would be a parks and trails item or roads as infrastructure. The

consensus was this is a recreation item and that the parks and trails committee should champion potential funding.

- **Sport Court** – Mayor Nyenhuis believes this is an important item and knows someone who will look into what it will take to get this done, including funding options. He believes this should be a 2-5 year item.
- **Burris Park** – Discussion was held as to restoration of the park and future uses of this park. Pardun noted that the Watershed has given funding for the restoration of buckthorn removal whereas Council member Anderson is focused more on the use. Ward would like to see the Council not focus on just one park, but greenspaces as a whole. Pardun noted this is part of a master plan to mitigate stormwater in the downtown area and he would like to see this part of the plan finished by dredging the Millpond. Pardun would like to see this item moved to Water Systems and then an overall green space plan could happen for all of the parks.
- **Off Leash Park** – Ward would like to see either a Washington County off leash park or a city park and will have a presentation by the end of the year.
- **Millstream Land Acquisition** – The majority of the Council was not in favor of this.
- **Ice Rink Update** – Ward questioned if moving the rink to downtown would be an option. Discussion was held that a portable rink was put in Burris Park at one time and did not work very well.
- **Land, maintenance** – Mayor Nyenhuis would like to see a broad scope of assessing land owned by the City and either maintaining it or get rid of it.
- **Cemetery** – Mayor Nyenhuis would like to see a columbarium placed in the current cemetery and would like to see this as a one year item and to hold a separate workshop on this item specifically. Scott Spisak noted this would have to go before the Planning Commission as it is a non-conforming use and cannot be expanded as it currently stands. Mayor Nyenhuis would like to see a workshop scheduled sometime between now and the summer.
- **Drainfield** – Pardun does not believe this needs to be on the Council's radar at this time, however there is a space set aside for a new drainfield but it is not officially noted. As future Council come along and there is potential to change the practices of past councils, Pardun would like to work on an official resolution designating that area and will work with the City Clerk on that.
- **Systems CIP** – Pardun and Ward are looking into the Reserve funds for both the wastewater and water systems. This will be a one year item.

City Properties

- **Village Hall** – The basement is structurally sound, however there is a water drainage issue that is fairly easily taken care of by digging a trench in the floor. Pardun would like to see the Clerk's offices are basically closets and the bathrooms are also in need of attention. There is an issue of how to expand the bathroom and upgrade the offices with the library using that additional space. Mayor Nyenhuis would like to see the Restoration Society brought into the conversation. Ward would like to see this issue on a short term timeline and would like to review the historical structures report to get started. This should be a 2-5 year goal.
- **Fire Hall Maintenance** – The department handles this.
- **Village Center Signage** – Mayor Nyenhuis will leave this for Councilmember Anderson
- **Public Bathrooms** – 2-5 year issue

- **Marine Elementary Public Safety** –_Cou. cilmember Anderson will look at this
- **Red Bridge Maintenance** –_Pardun will ask Bolton Menk to inspect this spring and there is money set aside for maintenance and repairs.
- **Stone House Museum** –_Ward would like to see this building have a historic structures report done and would like to engage the Civic Club in this effort. Storage is also an issue both for the museum and the Village Hall. Ward will look into this further to determine what the overall timeline is.

Holiday Events

- **Fireworks** – Roden noted she and Councilmember Anderson have attempted to contact another fireworks group and has been unable to get a response from anyone. This will warrant a larger conversation on what this event looks like moving forward.
- **Place for Arts and Performance**- Mayor Nyenhuis questioned Mr. Spisak if there would be land use issues for property used in the downtown area. Spisak noted that any land use issue should come before the planning commission. Nyenhuis and Ward would like to see more art opportunities within the Village. Roden believes the City has done a nice job bringing a large variety of events within the last few years, but of a small enough scale to not cause parking issues, etc. This will be a one year goal to review the events and how they were attended.

Public Works

- **Replacement Schedule** – On going budget item
- **Maintenance Facility** – Nyenhuis would like to see some sort of beautification process to the entrance of the facility. One year goal.

Planning Commission

- **Planning Consultant** – Ward would like to see this funded for the Commission and the Council will continue to address this each budget cycle.
- **Wetland Buffer Ordinance** – Ward believes this issue is too specific for this list but would like to stay on the Commission’s radar.

Citizen Committees

- **Citizen Committee Resolution amendment** – Ward would like to see this as an agenda item for this year.
- **Communication Infrastructure** – Monthly agenda item and is ongoing
- **Development of Historic Preservation Committee** – Ward noted this does fall under the Planning Commission and would like to see the Commission create a citizen committee to address this. This would be something that would involve bringing in visitors, incentivizing homeowners but nothing regulatory.
- **Green Steps, Urban Forest, Natural Resources** – all on going

Comprehensive Plan Amendments - There are some errors in the current plan that need to be corrected. The Commission will be reviewing consistencies between the zoning code and Comp plan.

Citizen Driven – Just an inventory and no action required

Proposed comprehensive document/CIP – Mayor Nyenhuis would like to see how things are reported around budget time and the end of the year and will come up with some sort of template for this.

Moving forward, there was a question as to how to present these goals to the public. Pardun would like to see something that the Council reviews to keep these on the radar. Mayor Nyenhuis suggested this be a quarterly item and that in the meantime, it be pulled from the agenda packet unless there is feedback from the public that it be brought back.

Nyenhuis moved and Ward seconded to adjourn at 8:00pm. Motion passed unanimously.