

Council Workshop  
January 29, 2025  
6:00pm Village Hall

Present: Nyenhuis, Goodfellow, Ward, Miller, Anderson.

Citizens present: Glen Mills, Kitsi Vadheim, Kristina Smitten

Mayor Nyenhuis opened the meeting at 6:00pm for the purpose of discussing several items brought up from individual council members and upcoming agenda items.

Mayor Nyenhuis suggested addressing each line item individually.

Council Policy and Rules – Miller would like everyone to review the workshop from 2023. Clerk Peterson also reminded the Council that there should not be attendance at the meetings due to the chance of an unplanned quorum and gives the impression that Council may try to influence a vote or undermine the ability to do their job. Anderson suggested the City create an SOP for Council to outline the rules for all Council to have.

City Council Priorities/Comp. Plan – Miller would also like to make sure the Council is on the same page when it comes to the priorities of the City and the Comprehensive Plan.

Multi-generational committee – Councilmember Anderson has agreed to join this committee. Kim Koxx has resigned and there is a new principle in place. There will a sixth-grade added and a large number of potential incoming kindergarteners which may cause a lottery to take place.

Cross-Committee Communication – Miller wanted to clarify the lanes on each Council committee and that committee members are communicating with other Council members if committee items cross over into other committee responsibilities.

Fireworks Display Ordinance – Ward would like to work on creating an ordinance to address display fireworks. The City does address this in the special event ordinance stating a permit is required. Anderson also noted that enforcement is an issue and it will be difficult to get Washington County to come out and do something without proof. In addition, the City cannot just fine a resident for violating an ordinance. This must be done as a prosecution by the City Attorney. This will remain an on going item of discussion.

Integration of Historic Preservation – Ward would like to see the integration of historic preservation into many of the City priorities and placed in the budget annually as well.

Fiscal Process and Policy – Goodfellow would like to see the budget process and budget itself reviewed and see the budget simplified. He would also like to see the Treasurer's report reviewed and prioritized. Nyenhuis would like to see this issue discussed in more detail at a later date. Nyenhuis would also like to see the monthly financials printed as part of the packet quarterly rather than monthly. It will continue to be posted monthly on the website.

Public Participation at Council meetings – Goodfellow believes the regular Council meetings should have an open forum time for residents to speak freely on topics relating to the agenda.

Anderson agrees it is difficult for residents to be added to the agenda when the agenda isn't posted until 7 days prior to the meeting, however based on best practices, he is very much against having an open forum. The suggestion was made to allow citizens to be added to the Citizens consideration portion of the agenda up until the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Anderson's concern is that citizens are allowed to present their considerations throughout the meeting on each individual agenda item.

Fire and Rescue Department – Goodfellow believes the 2023 Annual Fire Report was extremely underwhelming however was very happy with the 2024 report. He has additional ideas for items that could be added in the future as well. He would also like to discuss the overall budget and understand the high ticket items a little better. Anderson would like to schedule a workshop to discuss the department long term planning and where the City sees the department in the next 10-15 years.

City Property Committee Priorities – Nyenhuis would like to consider additional long-term planning for all city properties, for instance the maintenance shop remodel/expansion. The Village Hall exterior is another item for future consideration. Discussion was held on a long-term plan for all city properties, including green space and buildings.

Separation of Parks & Recreation and Watershed – Ward is currently the watershed liaison and is comfortable keeping that. Discussion was held as to what is included in the recreation portion of parks and rec. Anderson suggested having more Council liaisons on a committee but have a division of labor so to not make an issue of open meeting law violation. Nyenhuis suggested if there is an item, such as the lost 40, then make that a separate issue and create a citizen committee for that item and have it led by a Council member. Anderson agreed and turned over Parks and Rec to Goodfellow. Watershed will become a separate agenda item of which Ward and Goodfellow will be the liaisons.

Community Events – Council or Citizen Committee – Nyenhuis questioned if community events should be a citizen committee in order to get more volunteers involved and energize this issue a little more. The consensus was to make this a citizen committee, which will require a structured outline. This will remain on the agenda as a Council committee until a citizen committee proposal is presented.

\$5,000 Donation – The Council received a \$5,000 donation to be used where needed most. That money is currently sitting in the general fund and be allocated as Council sees fit. Anderson suggested using it towards the VH project, however Nyenhuis suggested it be seed money for the Mill Stream project items that will be the City's responsibility.

Anderson suggested having the City priorities laid out in a survey monkey for Council to complete.

Nyenhuis moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 7:28pm. All in favor, motion passed.