

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the City Council for the City of St. Joseph met in a workshop setting at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, in the St. Joseph Government Center.

Members Present: Mayor Rick Schultz. Councilors Brian Theisen, Bob Loso, Kelly Beniek, Kevin Kluesner

City Representatives Present: Administrator Therese Haffner, City Clerk Kayla Klein, Finance Director Lori Bartlett, Community Development Director Nate Keller, Public Works Superintendent Ryan Wensmann, Police Chief Dwight Pfannenstein, City Engineer Randy Sabart, Recreation Director John Anderson

Also present were select members of the Planning Commission, EDA, and Park Board. Linda Butenhoff, Mike Ross, Tim Rocky, Andy Rennecke, Elijah Stenman, Carmie Mick, Mike Osterman, Larry Hosch,

Staffing Update: Introductions were held and staffing needs were discussed. It was noted that the Police Department needs additional administrative staff. Other future potential needs include a City Planner, Office Specialist, mechanic in order to keep up with the growing population and needs. The goal is to plan for the future.

City Facilities/City Owner Properties: Sabart presented a map of all the city owned parcels for others to get an idea of all the property the city has to maintain. There is a city owned lot north of the Lake Wobegon Trail that kids use as a bike area. That space could be used for a bike park, although there is limited visibility for law enforcement and emergency personnel.

Downtown Redevelopment: Keller reported that the City is continuing to grow and discussions are being had on redevelopment in the downtown area. More specifically, the area along Birch St E. An option includes closing Birch St E and having the alley become the main road. Keller is also looking at expanding the City's current business subsidy programs by earmarking more money for these programs.

The old fire hall and garage, referred to as the butterscotch building, has four interested parties that potentially want to buy. At the last City Council meeting, the Council directed staff to draft an RFP in order to solicit proposals for the purchase.

Recreation Goals: Recreation Director Anderson stated his tenure as Recreation Director has been limited due to COVID. His main focus during this time was on family and lifelong activities. Building a summer recreation program is an uphill battle when starting from scratch. Some events coming up include a disc golf clinic and a little league camp.


Schultz added that a summer recreation program is needed in the community. Once established then the city can look at developing activities for seniors. It was asked if the city could partner with the College of St. Benedicts to use their facilities for these programs. Schultz noted that those discussions have not occurred in some time, but should be revisited as leadership for both parties has changed.

Community Center: Haffner reported the Community Center Committee met and decided to move forward with the RFP process for an architect.

Future Goals: Commissioner Dullinger stated that she has been contacted by residents that were annexed with concerns over the services provided by the city verses their expectations.

From a Park Board standpoint, discussions are being had on the development of East Park and constructing a shelter with bathrooms at Klinefelter Park.

The work session was adjourned at 6:45 PM.


Kayla Klein
City Clerk