

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Milos called the Work Session to order at 5:02 p.m.

Present: Mayor Milos, Councilors Robich and Pontinen.

Staff Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Debra Sakrison.

Candidate Roy Breedan has lived in Gilbert since 1980. Would like to improve sink holes in the alleys. Needs to do things with youth in the community. Needs to get businesses to come to town. Previously served on the Rec Board for 4-5 years. His job would not interfere with being on the City Council. Property taxes are not an issue for him, within reason, it would be ok if taxes needed to raise for street repairs. People complain about taxes all of the time. Thank you all around.

Candidate Christian Ogilvie has lived in Gilbert for three years. He was born and raised on the Iron Range. Safety plan for Broadway, it's unsafe for children. IT for the city, Ogilvie has experience with IT. Ideas to expand tourism quite a bit, draw new business and new residents to town. Taxes are fairly reasonable, has to be done. His work schedule would never be a problem to make meetings, he has a flexible schedule. Able to address IT issues.

Candidate Nick Ouke has lived in Gilbert since 1996. Has worked for United Taconite for 42 years, straight days. Has a flexible schedule. Gilbert is hurting, it's more of a residential location and the taxes are high. Try to get the city to grow again. Appreciated lowering taxes, a lot of catching up to do. Thank you.

Discussion.

Pontinen, Ouke, because Ouke having high taxes means he will help watch expenses.

Robich, lose sight of development if total focus is lowering taxes.

Ryan Capelle from Stantec working on the water plant and water processing issues. Review where have been. Go over recent meeting and end with next steps.

September 23, 2017 draft memo to Sam to verify if permanganate would work, able to tell John Thomas at MPCA this process would work. John Thomas was ok that work was in process and gave another extension.

Step back, maybe get away from lime softening process. Portions of plant are 100 years old. There are issues that need to be addressed.

September 23, 2017 memo can oxidize manganese, still need to determine how long to go through filters and backwash issues. We talked to the USDA for funding. It's a function of median household and debt, the equation gives an affordability number.

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

If we were able to get into USDA program, the costs could be covered by the USDA rather than fully borne by the city. Eligible for a planning grant maximum of \$30,000. There are only two of these grants awarded annually. This would be a good opportunity for the city.

Water debt affects affordability but there are health and safety issues with lime, qualifies city for lowest interest rate for a loan and lower interest is equivalent to the grant.

The planning grant would allow the city to determine the best option for the City. \$40,000 scope is very narrow.

Can take planning grants and pursue different funding options with less stringent requirements than the USDA.

This comes with a good planning document to make a valid determination what is the best option moving forward.

Councilor Bol arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Many needs for a water infrastructures, all would be eligible.

Mayor Milos hears that Gilbert has the best water, expressed concerns about changes with the water quality.

Inevitable increase will be coming.

In Minnesota 19 communities do lime softening which is a premium product. Water from wells is not really that hard.

Robich has concerns about escalating costs of this project.

Capelle will ensure better communication with the City Council and define a clear scope.

The engineering report that the USDA requires could reduce design engineering costs.

Regionalization does help at times but Eveleth's income levels could be detrimental for Gilbert.

Discussion.

Capelle, define two or three options is usual, four options is difficult.

Next step, meet and talk through potential options.

\$1,500 time to complete grant and travel for discussion options etc.

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

There would be no requirement to continue with Stantec in the future. Capelle will try to prove to the City Council that Stantec is the best option.

IT Contract, Robich will be bringing someone in to cover gaps with CW Technology. Would need to determine terms of the contract. Fee for being on call.

Discussion.

Motion by Robich, second by Bol to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. MCU



Debra Sakrison, City Clerk

ATTEST:



D. Elizabeth Milos, Mayor