

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Milos called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Present: Mayor Milos, Councilors Pontinen and Vertachnik. Councilor Robich arrived 11:10 a.m.

Absent: Councilor Bol (w/Notice).

Staff Present: City Engineer Jamnick, Police Chief Techar, Public Works Operations Director Lautigar and City Clerk/Treasurer Sakrison.

The 2017 rates for Sherwood Forest Campground were approved by the City Council in 2016. The prime site is site A23. It has 50 amp electric service and overlooks the lake. For the 50 amp monthly sites, the electric can be metered so can determine if the camper needs to be billed additional or if the site rental needs to be increased.

Councilor Pontinen is concerned about the discount for the monthly rate. Mayor Milos stated that \$500/month is comparable to area campgrounds.

Chief Techar distributed a letter regarding snow plowing issues and state statute §160.2715 was cited. People using ATVs to plow are pushing snow across the roadway so then the snow ends up on the curb or in the street. The ATVs with a plow are unable to push the snow back far enough.

Discussed snow removal on Broadway Street. It has always been removed by the public works department. Lautigar estimated 50% of the time spent on snow removal is spent on Broadway Street. Councilor Pontinen thinks the businesses should be charged for the snow removal. Lautigar clarified there is a difference between plowing and snow removal. On Broadway the city only plows the sidewalks. The state crews plow Broadway Street but then the city crew removes the plow banks. This subject will be studied this summer.

There was additional discussion about snow plowing in the residential areas. Chief Techar said it doesn't matter to him if the Council is going to allow residents to push snow across the roadways, he just needs an answer so there is consistency and not a case by case issue. Lautigar said he assumed pushing back plow banks is just part of his job.

Chief Techar said the snow plowing policy the city of Biwabik adopted has stopped the complaints. It provides for consistency, is a tool to answer questions and the routes are prioritized. The League of Minnesota Cities has a snowplowing policy template. An adopted policy also helps the city in the event of an accident.

Campground Manager John Rautanen called to answer questions about the campground rates. He explained that the monthly rate helps fill spots that would otherwise be empty. The campground is never full during the week. Major holidays there are waiting lists – Memorial Day 4-5 people and 4th of July usually 10 people. Only the 8 sites on the D loop are rented

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monthly. He clarified that the campground rates were approved by the council in 2016 before John & Barb left.

Jamnick said the city sells 2.7 million gallons of water per month. 3.5 million gallons are pumped from the wells. The water meters were discussed. The age of the meters means the meters are at the end of their estimated useful life. Many are being estimated. When meters are old they read slower so more water is going through the meter than is being measured by the meter.

Councilor Robich arrived.

Discussed operating revenue and expenses and how depreciation is handled. Some of the capital improvement needs include lime mitigation, upgrading meters, hydrants, and a new meter for Rock 'N Pines. Commodity sales are going down. Because of that it might be better to add to the monthly service charge. Gilbert did sell water to Fayal for 6 – 7 years. The upcoming expenses are quite significant.

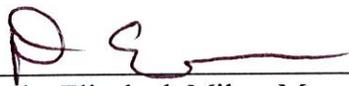
To fund depreciation add \$0.25 to the commodity charge and \$2.50 to the monthly base charge. This increase would not provide funding to cover upgrading the water meters or water plant improvements.

The city will need to pursue short-term financing to cover the up-front engineering costs for sewer plant upgrade and the equalization basin. Approximately \$1.35/month would need to be charged to cover \$25,000/year interest and debt issuance costs.

The meeting was recessed at 12:12 p.m.


Debra Sakrison, City Clerk

ATTEST:


Dorothy Elizabeth Milos, Mayor