

THE MINUTES OF THE HIBBING CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday, March 1, 2023

TIME AND PLACE: A Hibbing City Council Workshop Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 in the City Hall Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pete Hyduke called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Present at roll call Mayor Pete Hyduke, Councilor Justin Fosso, Councilor Jay Hildenbrand, Councilor Jennifer Hoffman Saccoman, Councilor John Schweiberger and Councilor Chris Whitney. Also present were City Administrator Greg Pruszinske, City Clerk/Deputy Administrator Candie Seppala, Treasurer/Finance Director Sheena Mulner, City Engineer Jesse Story, and Deputy Chief of Police Tyler Schwerzler. City Attorney Andy Borland attended via Zoom. Councilor James Bayliss and Chief of Police Steve Estey were absent.

DISCUSSIONS TO INCLUDE:

Emergency Sirens

DISCUSSION: Fire Chief Erik Jankila spoke in depth about the current Emergency Sirens the City has; currently there are 9 sirens across the City that do not work at all and haven't worked for about 12 years. Fire Chief Jankila stated that in late summer 2022 they went to each site, and he has pictures of the damage done over the years. Fire Chief Jankila stated that the cost to repair the sirens far exceeds the cost to replace them. Fire Chief Jankila went over a packet that was given to the City Councilors. City Administrator Greg Pruszinske spoke briefly about replacing the sirens versus using technology. There was some discussion between the Councilors and Staff.

Fire Hydrants

DISCUSSION: Fire Chief Jankila gave the Councilors a brief overview of the fire hydrants: there are 700-750 documented fire hydrants in the City; 25-30% of those fire hydrants leak and are unusable in the winter because they freeze. Fire Chief Jankila went over the handout given to the Councilors. Fire Chief Jankila explained that they check fire hydrants yearly and they have a map at the station that labels and shows all of the usable and unusable fire hydrants within the City. City Administrator Pruszinske spoke briefly about the current fire hydrant situation and what that looks like moving forward. There was some discussion between the Councilors and Staff.

2023 Paving

DISCUSSION: City Engineer Jesse Story went over the breakdown of paving projects and costs that was handed out to the Councilors. There was some discussion between the Councilors and Staff.

Public Utilities Water System Planning and Funding

DISCUSSION: City Administrator Greg Pruszinske stated that the Public Utilities has been working on a capital improvement plan for water distribution and treatment. City Administrator Pruszinske went over the handout that was given to the Councilors; they are ready to implement phase 1 of a 5-year plan in 2023. Treasurer/Finance Director Sheena Mulner explained that the City would be the applicant on the Public Utilities PFA Loan, in order for the Public Utilities to obtain a much more favorable interest rate on the loan. Treasurer/Finance Director Mulner explained in depth what this would mean for the City. There was discussion between the Councilors and Staff.

Transit

DISCUSSION: Treasurer/Finance Director Mulner explained that Shubat dropped off a letter to the City giving a 120 day notice that they are terminating their contract as the City's 3rd party operator for Hibbing Area Transit. Treasurer/Finance Director Mulner stated that they need to discuss what this means, how it impacts the City and what direction the Council wants to go in. There was discussion regarding this between the Councilors and Staff.

Other Additional Issues/Concerns for discussion

- **Eye Clinic North**

DISCUSSION: Community Development Director Betsy Olivanti went over a proposal for aid from Eye Clinic North that was handed out to the Councilors. Community Development Director Olivanti stated that this letter was presented to HEDA at their January meeting. Councilor Hoffman Saccoman asked if this was a legal matter that they should go into Closed Session to discuss further; City Attorney Andy Borland explained that HEDA has previously gone into Closed Session and it is a potential litigation issue, so they could go into Closed Session. The Members of the HEDA Board that are also on the City Council feel it would be best to go into Closed Session so that the City Council can have all the information.

- **Update**

DISCUSSION: City Services Director Nick Arola gave the Councilors a status update regarding the Carey Lake Campground.

- **Recycling**

DISCUSSION: Councilor Whitney explained that he and Mayor Hyduke met with Representatives from Waste Management regarding bringing curbside recycling back to the City.

- **Youth programs**

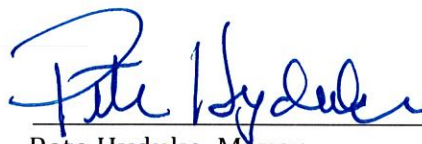
DISCUSSION: Councilor Fosso asked if there is an update as to the youth summer programs that the City will be offering; City Services Director Arola stated they plan to offer the same programs as were offered last year, possibly the addition of a camp out at Carey Lake. Library Manager Laura Koeneman spoke about the summer programs happening at the Library.

- **Welcome signs**

DISCUSSION: Councilor Fosso stated that the Welcome to Hibbing signs are in rough shape, and they should be looked at for repair; Councilor Schweiberger and Councilor Hoffman Saccoman stated those signs were put up by the Hibbing Chamber. There was discussion regarding this between the Councilors and Staff.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Hyduke adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

CITY OF HIBBING



Pete Hyduke, Mayor

ATTEST:



Candie Seppala, City Clerk/Deputy Administrator