



Council Worksession  
November 1, 2022  
5:00 pm

Present: Mayor Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas (attending remotely)  
Councilmember Abdullahi Abdulle  
Councilmember Graeme Allen  
Councilmember Pam Axberg  
Councilmember Emily Dunsworth (arrived at 5:15 pm)

Absent:

Staff in Attendance: Devin Massopust, Gina Foschi, Craig Schlichting

Guests in Attendance:

2023-2042 Utility Rate Analysis Discussion

Massopust reviewed the 20-year utility rate analysis goals and assumptions.

Foschi stated a 20-year analysis of the City's water, sewer, stormwater and street light enterprise operations and their respective capital improvement plans is completed annually. The focus of the analysis is to ensure the determination of revenues, expenses and cash flows is appropriate for operations, capital maintenance and replacement. She described the proposed utility rates (water, sewer and stormwater) for 2023 and how these rates would impact the average single family home. She then reviewed the future plans for the Community Reinvestment Fund.

Schlichting commented on the projected improvement projects from 2023 to 2042, which included repainting water towers, sanitary sewer improvements, water meter replacements, County road watermain reconstruction, maintenance building improvements, watermain street reconstruction and street replacements.

Councilmember Allen asked if Fridley would continue to buy water from the City. Schlichting stated New Brighton sends excess water to Fridley and Fridley pays for the chemicals.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas commented on the water efficiency products that people have in their homes and how this may assist with water conservation. She inquired if the ice castles would be back again this year. Massopust reported he was uncertain at this time. He noted the County signed off on this event. Foschi reported the ice castles have used around 12 million gallons per year in the past.

Further discussion ensued regarding the impact of the ice castles on the City's water fund.

Councilmember Dunsworth requested staff speak to how the sanitary sewer was split between commercial and residential users. Foschi explained residential users make up 93% of all accounts, but use 44% of the City's sanitary sewer and the remaining 7% of accounts were commercial and use 52% of the City's sanitary sewer.

Councilmember Allen asked if the stormwater projects included addressing the flooding that has occurred at

Garden View. Schlichting commented on the projects that were planned to address this concern.

Councilmember Abdulle discussed how the City was working to create safer streets and safer street corridors. Schlichting indicated the new thoughts for streets may shift funding from streets to stormwater or other funds as streets are made more narrow. He indicated staff would know more how to proceed with this funding once the climate action plan is completed.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas stated she has heard from residents that their residential streets were too dark and asked if the City could complete a street light study in order to improve community safety. Schlichting explained there were two areas of the City that were lit by City lights, which was along Silver Lake Road and the downtown area. He commented all other areas had neighborhood lighting that was installed on each street corner and within each cul-de-sac. He noted he could send the street light policy to the Council for further review.

Councilmember Dunsworth commented there were some dark areas within Hansen Park that should be investigated by staff.

Councilmember Abdulle requested staff provide the Council with comparison information for commercial utility rates.

Massopust thanked the Council for their input on the utility rates study and noted the proposed utility rates would be considered by the Council on Tuesday, December 13.

Worksession adjourned at 6:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Terri Spangrud  
City Clerk