



Council Worksession  
July 25, 2023  
5:00 pm

Present: Mayor Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas  
Councilmember Abdullahi Abdulle  
Councilmember Graeme Allen  
Councilmember Pam Axberg  
Councilmember Emily Dunsworth

Absent:

Staff in Attendance: Devin Massopust, Craig Schlichting

Guests in Attendance:

Update on 2023-2024 Strategic Priorities

Massopust stated the City Council met multiple times in the first quarter of 2023 to discuss, refine, and accept priorities for 2023-2024. Staff indicated that they would update the City Council on progress and issues of said priorities from time-to-time. The storyboard detailed the priorities and corresponding initiatives for the public and Council. It was noted 17% of the initiatives have been complete; 78% are on track; and one initiative is behind schedule. Staff commented further on the strategic priorities and provided an update on the Old Highway 8 reconstruction project and noted the improvements are slated for completion by the end of 2023.

Councilmember Axberg encouraged staff to pursue onetime funding to assist with City programs and initiatives.

The Council discussed how to address the need for better internet access for New Brighton residents, seniors in particular.

Massopust provided the Council with an update on the charging stations that have been installed. Schlichting reported the City was waiting for the transformers to be integrated at this time.

Massopust commented on the Climate Action Plan noting the draft has been completed and would be coming before the Council in September.

Councilmember Abdulle asked when the plan would be available for residents to review. Schlichting anticipated the plan would be available for comment from the public after August 30.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas requested the City pursue State and federal funding to assist with putting the Climate Action Plan into effect. Schlichting explained staff would be going after State and federal funding.

Massopust explained he was interested in completing an outside analysis of the Public Safety Department, for both police and fire, and taking a deeper look at having an embedded social worker.

Councilmember Axberg recommended the City find a way to measure resident satisfaction and success when it comes to the strategic priorities surrounding Public Safety.

Councilmember Abdulle agreed it would be important for the City to continue to check in with residents.

Massopust explained staff hoped to have the Zoning Code update completed by the end of the year. He then updated the Council on the implementation and funding for Phase 2 of the Parks Comprehensive Plan. He reviewed the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year.

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas thanked staff for all of their work on this presentation and for working to address the Council's strategic priorities. She suggested the Council begin searching for dates for the next strategic planning session.

#### Cannabis Discussion

Massopust explained the new cannabis law goes into effect on August 1, 2023. He reported he was under the impression the State would be informing residents about this matter, however this was not the case. He indicated it would be the responsibility of the City to inform residents on where cannabis could and could not be smoked in the community. He anticipated this would be difficult for the Public Safety Department to enforce.

Councilmember Allen suggested cannabis be added to all ordinance language where smoking was not permitted.

Councilmember Axberg agreed stating she did not want residents to have to walk in and out of building entrances where people could smoke.

Worksession adjourned at 6:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Terri Spangrud  
City Clerk