

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

October 17, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kampa called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Raeanne Danielowski, Lori Kampa, Duane Langsdorf, and Mike Wallen. Also present: City Administrator Todd Bodem, Finance Director Paula Mastey, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Senior Planner Katie Larsen, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Police Chief Joel Scharf, Liquor Store Manager Jan Muehlbauer, and Assistant City Engineer Jared Voge from Bolton and Menk, Inc.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Wallen motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Langsdorf, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

4. BUSINESS

4A. LGL Real Estate Investment, LLC Deferment Request Discussion

Larry Palm from LGL Real Estate Investments informed Council that they are not at the meeting to continue to ask for a deferment on their assessments as staff has been very clear that a deferment would most likely not be approved by Council. Palm informed Council that they will be seeking Council approval on a rezone of the proposed rail park land back to Agricultural.

Palm noted that they have spent a lot of money on marketing the property and asked what the City is doing to secure funding for the rail park. Mayor Kampa reviewed efforts of the City to secure funds through bonding bills, DEED programs, the TED grant, the Capital projects grant, and TIGER grant funding opportunities which have all been unsuccessful. Palm reviewed grant funds that staff at the City of Maple Plain has secured through continuous application efforts. Staff noted that most grant applications require that the project have a business commitment which hasn't been a component on the grant applications submitted to this point. Staff also noted that most, if not all, grant programs

require matching funds. Palm stated that they will come up with the matching funds if the City is awarded grant dollars for the rail project. Council reiterated that while the City is very supportive of the project, the City isn't in a financial position to fund any part of the project. Council directed staff to contact the City of Maple Plain to find out what funding source they received grant dollars from.

4B. Council Pay Reduction Discussion

Todd Bodem reviewed previous discussions held during Budget Workshops relating to Council consideration of a reduction in their wages. Council had discussed a 50% reduction and a 20% reduction. Council directed staff to proceed with drafting an Ordinance Amendment reducing Council pay by 20% to be effective January 1, 2013.

Council Member Wallen discussed comments made at the Political Forum, and stated his concern with limiting the amount of our levy increase and how that will affect City Department operations.

4C. Discuss Date for Next Budget Workshop

Staff reviewed available dates to hold the next Budget Workshop. Council directed staff to proceed with setting the next Council Workshop on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

5. OTHER

Todd Bodem reviewed the submittal requirements for the Initiative Foundation Grant program which the City could utilize to hold the 2013 Goal and Vision Workshop. Bodem also discussed a meeting he had with Council Member Danielowski and resident Karen Hanson who had concerns with what is being offered at the Senior Center.

Discussion was held on the proposed rail park and Council directed staff to recap discussions at the Workshop in a letter to LGL Real Estate.

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Langsdorf motioned to adjourn at 5:44 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Wallen unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
City Clerk

10/24/12
Date Approved By Council