

Biweekly Report
March 5, 2018
By
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REMINDER: DEDICATION OF NEW FIRE TRUCK

As you may remember during our budgeting process for 2017, one vehicle we had for replacement in our equipment acquisition schedule was our Fire Pumper Truck. After working for nearly a year to put together specifications for the truck, getting it built and equipped, the Chaska Fire Department has now taken delivery of this truck and they are now training on it. They are just finishing up the training that will allow them to get this truck fully into service at the beginning of January, at which time we will be selling our old vehicle.

To recognize the deployment of this new vehicle into our Chaska Fire Department Fleet, the Fire Department will be having a "New Truck" Ceremony on Monday, March 5th, at 6 pm at the Chaska Fire Station. With the entire ceremony being less than 30 minutes in length, the Fire Department did set it up at that time so that the Council would have an opportunity to attend and still be down to City Hall in time for our Council meeting that night.

If you are available to attend, it will be a good ceremony, and starting a new tradition that Chaska Fire Department has never done in the past, but plans to do moving forward. Hope you are able to attend!

ANTI-MONOTONY ORDINANCE WORK SESSION

Back in the middle of last decade (2004/2005), the City Council at the time was interested in making sure that new neighborhoods that were being built didn't just have "cookie cutter" homes that all looked the same and had no character to them. At the time, we had seen a few housing developments go through that the Council was disappointed in the way they turned out, and wanted to see what the community could do to create more variety in housing looks, especially as new national builders were coming into the community.

To that end, at the time, City Staff developed a policy which the Council adopted setting standards for how we would handle new neighborhoods and make sure that houses had some variety in look/color/etc... Since that time, this has been a main focus of not only planning for new neighborhoods, but also has gone into the building permit review process in developments. While it has been tweaked over time, its basic essence has staid in place with the goal of having a less monotonous look of housing in our new housing developments. This has been a practice/policy that has been utilized in a number of other communities in the Metro Area, with some communities deciding not to regulate this and just let the market dictate what types of housing gets built in individual neighborhoods.

Over the years, this has been used as a policy to help generate zoning that eventually gets incorporated into a Planned Unit Development Residential Zoning district, but has never been implemented in our general zoning standards. With their being some question recently on

when this should or should not apply from a policy perspective, there was a request by the Planning Commission to explore whether we just put something formally into an ordinance.

On Monday, March 19th, prior to the Council meeting (likely 5:30-6:30), Staff is planning to have a work session to discuss this topic with the Council. In that work session, we will look at the history of our practices here in Chaska, how we implement this, the reaction we have from builders/developers, look at what actual impact it has had on the look of neighborhoods, and talk about where we want to take this in the future. If you could block off this time prior to that Council meeting for this discussion, I would appreciate it. If you are unable to attend, please let me know so we make sure we have enough Council members there for this discussion. With us now getting into the heart of some of our SW Chaska residential development, we think this will be a good time to have this discussion.

COUNTY ROAD 44/212 INTERCHANGE

Since receiving funding for the County Road 44/212 Interchange last spring, City Staff has been working with both SRF (Engineering Design Firm), along with Carver County, with developing the plans not only for the interchange itself, but also for the rebuild of County 44 that the County will complete at the same time from the interchange back east to Guardian Angels Cemetery. With this being one of our main arterials not only into the new SW Chaska Development Area, but also our Downtown Commercial District, there is a lot of thought how best to get people off of the freeway and into the community in the most efficient way possible.

To that end, we are now at a point where we are starting to see some of these detailed plans developed, and are at a point where we need to bring this back to Council for feedback. To do this, we are planning on having a work session from 6-7 pm prior to the Council meeting on Monday, April 2nd. At that meeting, we will be able to not only show you the 2-dimensional plans for what is taking shape, but also an illustrated "fly over" like we were able to show you on the proposed Highway 41 reconstruction project through Downtown. Our hope at this meeting will be to share with you what our thoughts are behind certain design elements, and get your feedback on things you might want to have considered as part of the overall project.

If you are unable to attend, please let me know.

JOINT MEETING WITH PARK BOARD ON DOG PARK

Over the past several weeks, staff have been working on looking further at a future dog park and potential locations that may be suitable. To keep the process moving forward, we are looking at getting a joint meeting set up between the City Council and the Park Board to talk about our findings on different sites we have been looking at, and thoughts on a site we may want to consider. There is still some work left to be done, but I did want to have you get on your calendar when we are shooting for to be ready for this discussion. We are looking at having a joint Work Session from 5:30-7 on Monday, April 16th prior to our City Council meeting. Our hope from this meeting would be to share with you information that we have pulled together and get feedback from both groups on directions we think we should move on this park development. If you are unable to make this date, please let me know. If anything changes with this date, I will let you know.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR STARTS POSITION

As I shared with you several months ago, one position that we have added within the City to help us more effectively/consistently/regularly communicate to the residents and businesses in our community is a Communication Director position. In the past, the task of creating communication pieces within the City has been very decentralized as we have not had the

Staffing to focus our communication efforts City-wide. With the addition of a Communications position, we will now be able to focus on more consistent communications and marketing city-wide, and to make sure that we are getting the right information to the right people in the community. This has always been an area that we have felt we could improve, and by dedicating someone to this position, we hope to have more robust communications going out to our residents.

The person filling this role will be Kevin Wright. For those of you that were involved in Ryder Cup activities, you may remember that Kevin was the Director of Operations for the PGA for the Ryder Cup event. Since the Ryder Cup, he has worked as a lead operations director for the Super Bowl that we recently held in Minnesota. Kevin comes to us with not only great experience having to communicate things on a very large scale, but also a passion for our community as he decided that this is where he wanted to take root after traveling with the PGA for several years to different tournaments.

We are very excited to have Kevin join our Staff as of March 1, and look forward to introducing him to the Council!

TRANSPORTATION DAY AT CAPITOL

Just a reminder that if you are interested in joining Minnesota Transportation Alliance for Transportation Day at the Capitol, that is coming up this next Wednesday, February 7th starting at 8:00 am at the Best Western Plus Capital Ridge, close to the State Capital Building. This is an opportunity to hear what is happening in the area of transportation at the Capitol during this session, and to also meet with your legislators to discuss/lobby for projects in our area. If you are interested, please let Nate or I know and we'll get you signed up.

CHRISTMAS IN MAY 2018

So that you are able to plan your schedule this Spring, just wanted to let you know that Christmas in May this year will be held on Saturday, May 5th starting at 7:30 am with a breakfast down at Guardian Angel's School Gym. We are once again hoping to have about 2-3 houses to work on, with 1-2 mobile homes. We hope you are able to join in the fun!