



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
6 P.M., TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024
IN THE CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

Mayor Louismet opened the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Councilmembers in attendance included: Kevin Edberg, Heidi Hughes, and Andrea West. Councilmember Walsh arrived at 8:31 p.m. Councilmember Steve Engstran was excused. Staff members in attendance included: City Manager Lindy Crawford, Community Development Director Jason Lindahl, Patrol Captain Phil Henry, Housing and Economic Development Coordinator Tracy Shimek, City Clerk Caley Longendyke, and City Attorney Dave Anderson.

1. Development Priorities Update – 2511 County Road E

Community Development Director Lindahl presented an update on the property located at 2511 County Road E and the adjacent property owned by Northeast Residence/Hammer. He summarized negotiations between the City and the landowners for the potential purchase of the adjacent property. The next step is for staff to work with the city attorney and present a purchase agreement for Council consideration.

2. Fair Housing Policy Discussion

At the July 9 work session, staff presented a proposed Fair Housing Policy for Council to review. Housing and Economic Development Coordinator Shimek noted that the purpose of a fair housing policy is to affirm commitment to ensuring that fair housing opportunities are available to all persons in all housing opportunities and development.

Based on Council feedback at the July 9 work session, and after conferring with other communities about their policies, staff revised the proposed fair housing policy for Council to review. Mayor Louismet and Councilmembers shared their support for the revised draft. Council will consider adopting the draft at the August 14 regular Council meeting.

3. Liquor Ordinance Discussion

City Manager Crawford provided a summary of previous Council discussions regarding amending the liquor ordinance during work sessions on March 21, 2023, and February 20, 2024. The purpose of the current work session was to discuss a proposal to no longer allow extended liquor sales after 1 a.m., as currently allowed per state statute based on individual city's municipal codes. Similar to the past work sessions involving the liquor ordinance, data on police calls responding to on-sale liquor establishments was provided to accompany the discussion.

Patrol Captain Henry summarized the data, including providing ratios for the number of police calls occurring after 1 a.m. He provided more context for these types of calls, including the need for calling other agencies, the amount of time spent at certain locations, and efforts made to stop impaired driving. Councilmembers reviewed the data and discussed options for potential City action, one of which being to no longer allow liquor sales past 1 a.m. In general, there was discussion about public safety, liquor sale hours of surrounding cities, extra security requirements, and the potential impact to establishments that don't require regular police response.

In conclusion, the Mayor and Council requested direct feedback from liquor-license establishment owners on the potential prohibition of liquor sales after 1 a.m. Staff will follow up with a mailed letter inviting owners to attend the Tuesday, August 27 regular Council meeting to provide feedback to Council. A first reading of the proposed amended liquor ordinance will be scheduled for a later date.

Adjourned 9:30 p.m.