



**ALBERTVILLE CITY COUNCIL
March 7, 2011
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

ALBERTVILLE CITY HALL

8:40 PM

The workshop began around 8:40 p.m. Mayor Meehan invited those in attendance to begin.

Family-Youth Community Connections (FYCC)

Sandy Greninger presented an update on FYCC activities. Greninger said that FYCC assists with softball/baseball, Lacross and Adult Kickball. Adult Dodge ball may also be a possibility. FYCC is currently putting together the Kids Summer Program, which Greninger will get a draft to the staff and or Council. A couple programs that are offered in the summer are free crafts in the parks and free reading in the parks. FYCC recruits volunteers to read to the children at the Central-City Park. FYCC held a Father-Daughter Dance around Valentine's Day, which was at the new St. Michael City Hall. FYCC has a Mother-Son Activity Night that is a blast for the Moms and their sons to participate in non-physical to physical games. The competition comes out and everyone attending has a fun time.

Greninger reported she is lucky the elementary is allowing her to send the program brochure and flyers through the school. It is unknown how much longer FYCC will be able to send the information home through the school to the students. The topic of an electronic version be sent to other various municipal or private members was discussed.

Greninger stated that FYCC hosts a theater production every year that receives a lot of students interested. Everyone gets to participate!

Greninger commented she has a good group of warming house rink attendants this season. FYCC and the City fielded very few complaints and heard many positive comments. Outdoor skating had good communication between her and the City and about 3,000 students participated. Greninger reported that she does not use the arena because of both price and availability. Broomball also went very well this season.

Public Works – Oral Presentation on Garbage Collection

Public Works Supervisor Guimont shared with the Council members and staff that he recently completed a Public Works course through North-Hennepin Community College. As part of an assignment he put together a research paper on garbage collection.

Guimont continued with the presentation that informed the Council and staff the advantages of having single-sort garbage collection. Having one waste hauler collect garbage throughout Albertville will possibly offer a reduced rate for the residents of Albertville. Another advantage is reducing the number of garbage trucks driving through the neighborhoods; therefore, saving on the wear and tear on the streets and roadways. Reducing the number of garbage trucks would also then reduce the amount of fumes emitted by the trucks; therefore, reducing the amount of air pollution from the trucks.

Guimont gave a comparison with today explaining there are five (5) waste haulers licensed to service Albertville. That means there could be five (5) times the traffic in your neighborhood on Thursday as each resident does not have the same waste hauler. The City Council at this time is not interested in going through the process of having organized garbage collection. Guimont is hopeful that in the future Council will entertain the thought of going through the process to have or offer organized garbage collection.

Guimont continued by sharing there are cities that the neighborhood got together to organize their own garbage collection with one vendor. It can be a lengthy process to go door-to-door petitioning your neighbors to sign up for garbage collection with a certain vendor. There is the chance that these homeowners would receive a discounted price for what you might call “bulk or isolated organized garbage collection”.

Council agreed with Guimont’s comments that if a neighborhood wanted to get together they could organize to have one waste hauler pick up the garbage throughout their area. Not all Council members were in agreement with going through the process of holding a public hearing regarding changing the City Code to go with organized collection. Council member Vetsch did not believe that the City should be involved with the garbage business. Council member Sorensen noted the single-sort recycling was an upset to the residents and would like to hold off on the organized collection.

Engineering – Kalland Avenue NE Sidewalk

City Engineer Nafstad reported that the City completed the sidewalk along Kalland Avenue NE. Post construction, the slope became a concern as it did not meet Handicapped Accessibility requirements. The Council consternated over replacing the sidewalk and authorized staff to negotiate with the contractor to replace it at the proper grades. The consensus of the Council was to finish the replacement and move on.

Engineering – Storm water and Spring Flooding

City Engineer Nafstad informed the Council the City collects storm water fees on the Utility Bill for future maintenance and debt service. In 2010, BMI completed a Storm Water Management Study, mapping the entire city's drainage ways and inventorying storm water ponds. Nafstad reported staff will be putting together a five year maintenance plan and presenting it back to the City Council this spring.

Guimont reported they have 10,000 sand bags on hand for any spring flood events and will have a couple pallets ready to go if necessary. City Engineer Nafstad said he does not anticipate any flooding; however, they will monitor it and be ready to respond.

Planning – Outdoor Music

City Planner Brixius brought up the ongoing concern with Outdoor Music Permits. According to the 2005 Albertville Municipal City Code, it is impossible for a restaurant to meet all of the regulations for an Outdoor Music Permit with the exception of the Cedar Creek Golf Course. In recent years the City has approved an Outdoor Music Permit for the 152 which does not conform to the ordinance.

In 2010, staff recommended amending the City Code to accommodate Outdoor Music Events at other restaurants and bars, or not issue permits. Brixius wanted to know if the Council would like to consider amending the City Code at this time as the 152 Club will likely be submitting a request this summer. Council member Sorenson agreed that an ordinance change was necessary to insure uniform and equitable treatment of Albertville businesses. The Council directed staff to take the draft ordinance amendment to planning commission public hearing at its April meeting.

Planning – Temporary Off-premise Signs

City Planner Brixius commented that there has been more discussion among staff relating to temporary off-premise signs. According to the City Code, this signage is not allowed throughout Albertville. It became a more popular topic with the Neighbors temporary sign that was located on CSAH 37. Building Official Sutherland approved the sign taking into account other off-site temporary signs in other neighborhoods. These included signs for Fantastic Sams, Mattress Store, Great Clips, and others located off of CSAH 19. These stores did not have CSAH 19 frontage as the building was located further back. The exception is that some of the areas north on CSAH 19 had empty lots in front making it look as if it was part of the development.

Brixius asked the Council if they want to amend the Code to allow off-premise signage or leave the language as is? Sutherland and Brixius showed pictures of several temporary signs in question. City Attorney Couri advised against making any changes allowing off-premise temporary signs, as did City Planner Alan Brixius. Building Official Sutherland explained that he is the one out there enforcing temporary signs and many businesses want more signs. Especially, if they are off of the main roads. Brixius countered by saying the Ordinance allows for an abundance of on-site sign options and most businesses don't use up their allotment. He reported having worked in this business for thirty years and the one thing he has learned is that businesses will never have enough signs. From his perspective, the code provides ample opportunity for on-site signs.

Council member Wagner said that he was on the Planning Commission and recalls the problem with the large amount of signs throughout Albertville especially along CSAH 19 or CSAH 37. He said it looks much better today without all those temporary signs. He also noted that some of the signage would be for out of town businesses and many were for builders or real estate for sale.

The Council by consensus agreed to let staff work with the current ordinance and as necessary bring to the Planning Commission if changes are recommended.

Finance – Five-year Financial Plan

The evening was getting late and Finance Director Lannes gave a brief update on the City's Five-year Financial Plan. Lannes presented some preliminary levy impact numbers for I-94 and a proposed second sheet of ice for the arena. She noted if the City does I-94 and the second sheet of ice, it will be a significant increase. Financing the Ice Arena in the near term will be a huge undertaking for Albertville.

The meeting ended at approximately 11:15 p.m.

Bridget Miller, City Clerk (recording secretary)