

SPECIAL MEDINA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2014

The City Council of Medina, Minnesota met in special session on October 23, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. to conduct a business focus group.

I. ROLL CALL

Members present: Martin, Pederson, and Weir

Members absent: Martinson and Anderson

Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Assistant to City Administrator Jodi Gallup, Public Works Director Steve Scherer, and City Planner Dusty Finke.

II. BUSINESS FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

City Council and staff had a discussion with representatives from Walter G. Anderson, Loram, OSI, and Polaris to better understand how the City of Medina can help established businesses to stay and to expand in Medina and how to attract new businesses to Medina.

The City received feedback on some of the areas that the City could improve upon to help streamline commercial development or expansion. Some of the main issues included: city codes, length of time to get through the process, cost of engineering fees, and cost of SAC/WAC charges.

Ideas to address these issues include the possibility of adding a second Planning Commission meeting in a month if there were additional projects to review, changing some of the city processes to give staff authority to administratively approve simple lot combinations or other simple projects to avoid the current lengthy process, figuring out if there are some trade-offs that would benefit the City to allow lower SAC/WAC charges and the City having more oversight on how the City Engineering firm was spending money.

It was noted that the City did establish a SAC fee deferral program to allow businesses to defer their fees for up to three years, which some businesses have taken advantage of this program.

The need for more affordable housing in Medina was also addressed because most of these companies' employees cannot afford to live in the City of Medina.

Transportation was also discussed. OSI stated that most of their employees live in the heart of Minneapolis and would like public transportation to Medina. The other companies said most of their employees live west of Medina and would not need public transportation.

Discussion took place on the improvements the City has already implemented to try to help businesses such as adjusting ordinances to increase hardcover, adjust parking requirements, increasing outdoor storage standards, updating the sign ordinance, and allowing up to four story buildings.

III. ADJOURN

Adjourned the Business Focus Group meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Elizabeth Weir, Mayor

Attest:

Scott Johnson, City Administrator-Clerk