



**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**February 17, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The work session meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm.

**Present:** Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sam Rettinger, Sharon Henderson, Brian Carpenter, and Liz Olson

**Staff Present:** Interim City Administrator: Terrance Post

**Absent:** None

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Carpenter, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.*

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**City Administrator Position Appointment Discussion**

Post discussed the meeting non-packet handout item from City Attorney Jamnik which described Ordinance Section 2-81 "Establishment of the City Administrator Position" emphasizing the requirements for a four-fifths vote of the city council regarding hiring and termination as well as the 60 days' termination notice supplanting the language in the employment agreement. Discussion ensued regarding elements of the employment agreement including a correction noted by councilmember Olson in regards to the start date being February 21, 2009 and not June 19, 2007.

**Highway 12 Turnback Process Discussion with Hennepin County Engineer Jim Grube**

Post introduced Hennepin County Engineer Jim Grube. Recent discussions of signage in the Highway 12 corridor had brought back into focus the realization that old Highway 12 will be turned back to the County at some time in the future. In anticipation of this, Post stated he thought it would be useful for all current Council members and interested parties to hear how the County perceives the future turnback of the roadway.

Mayor Gilbert also added that Mr. Grube had been very helpful to the Highway 12 Turnback Committee and cities of Long Lake and Orono over the past four years.

Mr. Grube discussed his knowledge of Mn/DOT's desired timeframe for turning old Highway 12 between Wayzata Boulevard and County Road 6 to Hennepin County and reviewed the procedural steps that must be taken before old Highway 12 officially becomes Hennepin County Road 112. He anticipated the roadway would not be turned over before July 30, 2009 and that the turnback would occur with certainty this year. Mr. Grube stated that the County currently has no preconceived notions about what the future roadway will look like and that the County is keenly interested in what Long Lake's vision is for old Highway 12 in the long term. With knowledge of the City's ultimate vision, the City and County can move forward to determine what items are practical and possible. Mr. Grube also commented on the funds Mn/DOT is holding in reserve for completing a thorough mill and overlay of old Highway 12. He indicated that rather than having Mn/DOT complete the mill

and overlay project; the County could request these funds, complete a less substantial mill and overlay project thereby leaving funds available for other improvements to the roadway. Mr. Grube sought the Council's interest in this proposal. Further, Mr. Grube discussed the City's desire to change the common name of the roadway. Should the City desire to move forward with this concept, he shared the County's willingness to participate in open houses and meetings with local businesses to discuss a potential name change.

Council member Rettinger questioned the financial impact of the Highway 12 Turnback Committee's plan as developed. Other Council members commented they had not yet seen the plan. Mayor Gilbert stated that a Highway 12 Turnback Committee meeting had been scheduled and the plan would be revisited in the nearby future.

Council member Olson emphasized the importance of having a safe road. She stated she would be more interested in seeing a safe and solid road, and vision would be on the backburner in her mind.

Mr. Grube noted safety improvements that would need to be made by Mn/DOT at a minimum before the County would accept the roadway, separate from the mill and overlay project.

Council members also discussed issues of roadway speed and pedestrian safety.

Mayor Gilbert suggested that the issue of whether the mill and overlay project should be completed by Mn/DOT or whether the funds for the mill and overlay project should be entrusted to the County would best be a topic for discussion at the Council's upcoming Strategic Planning Session.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business items were discussed.

#### **ADJOURN**

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the work session meeting by general consent at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrance Post  
Interim City Administrator