

WORKSESSION MINUTES

September 9, 2003

Council Present: *S. Cherney, C. Crichton, T. Daly, E. Kautz, and L. Workman*
Council Absent: *None*
Staff Present: *C. Ebeling, S. Olesen, S. O'Malley, K. Strey, J. Tschumper, T. Hansen, T. Goodroad*
Others Present: *J. Gessner, L. Goldsmith, R. Knutson, City Attorney; D. McClure, W. O'Brien, C. Shover, D. Abrams, J. Erickson*

ITEM 1. Financial Policy Review-Finance Management Plan & "Max" Tax Levy

S. O'Malley distributed the revised Financial Management Plan. The amendments to the plan were reviewed as well as Policy No. 1.230 Investment of City Funds.

O'Malley suggested that the Council may want to address the setting of the Max Tax Levy by including a policy on setting of the "Max" tax in Section I, Revenue Management. Council will discuss adding this policy to the Revenue Management Plan when the Plan is reviewed again prior to adoption.

C. Ebeling said that some cities are sending out their own "Max Tax" statements. The Council asked Ebeling to look at this option and report back. He suggested the timeframe for sending out the letter would be in December.

ITEM 2. Buck Hill Issues

C. Ebeling framed the discussion items for this evening:

- Water Accessibility Charges
- Modified Rate for Water Consumption
- Antenna Lease Agreement
- Long-term Zoning of Buck Hill

He summarized the meeting with Buck Hill representatives in July 2003.

Ebeling gave an overview of the Antenna Lease Agreement.

D. McClure introduced his legal counsel, W. O'Brien, and shared his thoughts regarding:

- The Antenna Lease
 - Buck Hill would accept full water connection of \$92,000 if antenna lease is maintained.

Council discussed options regarding the water charges (connection and rate) and the antenna lease and the Buck Hill representatives addressed Council's questions.

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Council consensus was to proceed with rezoning Buck Hill to Commercial Recreation or a special zoning, Buck Hill Recreational (BHR). The City Attorney will draft an Ordinance creating a new zoning district focusing on Buck Hill for Council and Buck Hill representative's review at a Worksession.

C. Shover shared her thoughts on the discussion and suggested involving the County in retaining Buck Hill as a ski area. Mayor Kautz said that discussions with the County are happening. Ebeling stated that he's talked to Representative Powell regarding LCR funding.

Council was supportive of the following:

- Maintain present lease as written
 - Migrate customers if feasible
 - Future leases should work to the City's advantage
- Adjusted RIA accessibility water connection charge
 - Lay out justification
- Work with Buck Hill to establish reduced water rate
 - Justify
 - Information on water rates at other ski hills (i.e. Highland Park)

D. McClure said that Buck Hill needs to connect to water by October 31, 2003.

C. Shover suggested that the rezoning be communicated to the public.

Council requested that staff present options for the calculation of the water connection charge and reduced consumption rate.

The City Manager asked D. McClure if Buck Hill would oppose rezoning. W. O'Brien responded that they would not know until they see the proposal.

Council took a 5 minute break.

ITEM 3. Round Table

Reuse of Fast Food Restaurants as Sit Down Restaurants

Councilmember Workman had requested that this item be placed on the Round Table for discussion. C. Ebeling said the fast food restaurants are evaluated by staff when there is a proposal to convert it to a sit down restaurant. T. Goodroad explained the process. Councilmember Workman said one of her concerns was that they don't meet the criteria for an on-sale intoxicating liquor license.

Council directed staff to gather information from the Police Department and look at fast food restaurant building signs and report back to the Council.

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Discussion of Legislators Open House at THE GARAGE

The City Council consensus was to have the meeting with the legislators at THE GARAGE.

ITEM 4. MISCELLANEOUS

The Mayor thanked Councilmember Crichton and Joy Cherney for their efforts in the improvement in the financial process for the Fire Muster. The Mayor said she would like to write a letter of thanks to Joy Cherney on behalf of the Council. Council was supportive. Council expressed thanks to Councilmember Workman for her leadership in Fire Muster celebration.

Councilmember Workman reported on the meeting with the Russian delegation on September 5.

Councilmember Crichton shared his concerns regarding the Personnel Policy in 2004 and union negotiations. Ebeling advised Council that discussion is scheduled at their next one on ones.

S. Olesen asked Council what dates would work for them for their Municipal Finance/Bonding and Budget seminar. Council's first choice was Friday, October 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. October 17 is the backup date.

Ebeling advised the Council that he will have surgery on October 15 or October 22, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Olesen, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Burnsville this 15th day of September 2003.

Elizabeth B. Kautz, Mayor