

City of East Bethel
City Council Agenda
Special Meeting - 6:00 PM
Date: February 5, 2014



Item

- | | | |
|---------|------------|--|
| 6:00 PM | 1.0 | Call to Order |
| 6:01 PM | 2.0 | Adopt Agenda |
| 6:02 PM | 3.0 | Introductions of Legislators |
| 6:05 PM | 4.0 | Discuss East Bethel Priorities and 2014 Legislative Session |
| 7:15 PM | 5.0 | Adjourn |



City of East Bethel City Council Agenda Information

Date:

February 5, 2014

Agenda Item Number:

Item 3.0

Agenda Item:

Introduction of State Legislators

Requested Action:

Discussion of City needs and potential sources of assistance from the State level

Background Information:

We are honored that Senator Michelle Benson and Representative Tom Hackbarth have accepted our invitation to be our guests tonight and discuss legislative and economic development issues that have an impact on and will shape the future of East Bethel.

State Senator Michelle Benson represents District #31, which serves the northern half of Anoka County, along with segments of Isanti and Sherburne counties. Senator Benson has been assigned to the Environment and Energy committee, and the Health and Human Services Division of the Finance Committee. She is also the Ranking Minority Member of the committee for Health, Human Services and Housing.

State Representative Tom Hackbarth serves House District 31B, which is comprised of the communities of East Bethel, Linwood, Columbus, and Ham Lake, and portions of Oak Grove and Andover. Representative Hackbarth is a Republican-Lead on the Environment and Natural Resources Policy, and is also involved in the committees for Energy Policy; Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance; and Ways and Means.

Thank you for coming and welcome to East Bethel.

Attachments:

Fiscal Impact:

Recommendation(s):

City Council Action:

Motion by: _____

Second by: _____

Vote Yes:_____

Vote No:_____

No Action Required:_____



City of East Bethel City Council Agenda Information

Date:

February 5, 2014

Agenda Item Number:

Item 4.0

Agenda Item:

Legislative Discussion with Senator Michelle Benson and Representative Tom Hackbarth

Requested Action:

Discussion of City needs and potential sources of assistance from the State level

Background Information:

As the next legislative session begins on February 25th, the City of East Bethel is very interested in being briefed on and informed of the funding priorities and issues that will be considered by the Legislature. As a City, we have a strong interest in what is happening at the State level and have needs we feel are relevant for consideration for assistance. The priorities that we wish to discuss with our Legislators on February 5th are as follows:

- **East Bethel Water and Sewer Project** – As you are aware, the City of East Bethel is involved in a sewer and water project that was approved by an outgoing City Council in 2010 and had limited public support. The financial feasibility of this project has been in question since its conception and the impact of the debt of this project, coupled with the lack of growth upon which the projects financial pro forma was predicated, is now being placed upon the taxpayers of the City. The 2014 City Levy increase of 15.1%, required to pay just the bond interest on this project, is evidence that the project is not sustainable from a standpoint of revenue generation. The City is seeking information on and support for bonding bill assistance or economic development grants to assist us in our efforts to address this financial challenge.
- **Transportation Needs** – Transportation is a critical part of the future development in the City of East Bethel, particularly along the Highway 65 corridor. In order to stimulate development along this Corridor, it is very important that we work with MnDOT to provide access to properties that can be developed with high density uses. A particular area of concern is the area in the vicinity of the intersection of Hwy 65 and 187th Lane. This is an intersection that was planned to be signalized by MnDOT both in 2001 and in 2006. However, in MnDOT's most recent Congestion Management Safety Plan, the intersection of 187th Lane and Hwy 65 is no longer included as a priority and is not even mentioned in the plan. The City has met with MnDOT officials and we were told

that it is the current intent to limit signaled intersections on Hwy. 65 as much as possible. While we respect MnDOT's vision of Hwy 65 as future freeway, we do not believe that we should be required to have our access to this vital transportation route on hold for the next 30 to 50 years while we wait for the construction of interchanges on this route. Signaled intersections are essential for traffic safety, an interim solution to traffic management and an immediate need as a stimulus to economic development on Hwy 65 in East Bethel.

- **Agency Partnership/Funding** – The City would like to take advantage of funding opportunities at the State level and would like to have a discussion about how to best improve our relationship with DEED, MnDOT, and Greater MSP. In addition we need your support and advocacy to encourage these agencies to invest and steer development opportunities to East Bethel.
- **Other Concerns or Issues**

The City is seeking input and direction from Senator Benson and Representative Hackbarth as to means to address these issues.

Attachments:

Fiscal Impact:

Recommendation(s):

City Council Action

Motion by:_____

Second by:_____

Vote Yes:_____

Vote No:_____

No Action Required:_____