

EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

January 16, 2013

The East Bethel City Council met on January 16, 2013 at 7:30 PM for a special meeting at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob DeRoche Ron Koller Richard Lawrence
 Heidi Moegerle Tom Ronning

ALSO PRESENT: Jack Davis, City Administrator

Call to Order **The January 16, 2013 City Council special meeting was called to order by Mayor Lawrence at 7:30 PM.**

Adopt Agenda **Ronning made a motion to adopt the January 16, 2013 City Council special meeting agenda. Moegerle seconded; all in favor, motion carries.**

Planning Commission Interviews Davis explained that the terms for two Planning Commission members, Lorraine Bonin and Lou Cornicelli expired on December 31, 2012. Joseph Pelawa resigned from the Planning Commission on September of 2012.

In response to these vacancies, we advertised on the City's website, at the Town Hall meeting, and at City Hall. The City received a letter of interest from Randy Plaisance. In addition, both members who terms expire on December 31, 2012 have submitted letters expressing an interest in continuing to serve on the Planning Commission. We have left the application acceptance period open until Wednesday, January 16th at 3:00 p.m.

We have included copies of all letters of interest received as part of your agenda materials.

Staff is recommending that Council interview the candidates for the three Planning Commission vacancies, and makes appointments. The terms are for three years and would expire on January 31, 2016.

Lorraine Bonin introduced herself. Moegerle, "A lot of things have changed in the last two years and lots of change still has to be done. What are the most important things that the Planning Commission needs to get done?" Bonin, "Now that water and sewer is in, there is lots of work that needs to be done with that. That was one of the major issues that we need to keep aware of and protect that area, so that when we want to do it, the land is still there." Moegerle, "Are there ordinances that you could name that need attention or have gone too long without attention?" Bonin, "Our ordinance that deals with lot size and housing needs attention. There are a variety of areas that need attention and development."

DeRoche, "You have been on the Planning Commission for a long time. You bring history and a great perspective. We need to have commissioners with your knowledge and perspective who know where we have been and help us in where we are going to go. What are your perspectives of where you would like to see the City go as an individual, a taxpayer?" Bonin, "Whether it is possible or not? I would like to see the City Center developed. We are halfway between Blaine and Cambridge and I think this is the ideal spot for something, whether it is a grocery store, department store. We don't like having to drive all the way to Cambridge to pick up some groceries." DeRoche, "What if that particular area is not the best area?" Bonin, "I am not thinking of limiting it to that area. We have several areas along the sewer and water line where this could happen." Moegerle, "Are you talking about a main street, or just an amphitheatre, and some shops or a library and maybe City

Hall?" Bonin, "Well, I would like to see a library and those other things part of the City Center, and a small amphitheatre would be great."

DeRoche, "What do you think of senior housing?" Bonin, "We need it somewhere. The City Center would be a great place for it, maybe on the edge. But then you would have shopping and all the amenities available." DeRoche, "Yes, and for the city water it would bring in the ERUs." Lawrence, "I like your vision. With the commissions it is important that we move forward as a unit. It is very serious that we get all this stuff done to attract more customers and/or businesses to the City of East Bethel."

DeRoche, "How critical do you think your role is to be on a commission?" Bonin, "We don't make the decision, but we give input. We get to think about one area, but without this it would be harder. We do the grunt work, which needs to be done." Moegerle, "A couple of times on critical situations, there have been abstentions of critical votes. How do you feel about people abstaining from critical votes?" Bonin, "I don't do that. But, once in a while there might be a reason to do that. But, if you are doing it a lot, it might become an issue and you might want to think about why and if you need to do something about it."

DeRoche, "I don't think a lot of people in the City realize what the commission people do. They are giving up time from their family, not making a lot of money, but showing an interest. I am on the roads commission as the liaison and we have a lot of good talks. We have some people that really know what is going on. I don't see anyone up here that knows everything about roads, planning, economic development or parks. If a decision is made by Council and it doesn't gel with what the commission recommended, it is not that we don't think what you said is great. I know towards the end of the year some comments were made on the Planning Commission and I don't want our commission members to think we don't appreciate what they do. The Planning Commission was asked about the comprehensive plan and they wanted to put it back on Council or a committee, because some of the members thought it wasn't their task to do. If you are on the Planning Commission, you are planning what direction the City should go. I think it was a cop-out to say that. Short of someone having a conflict of interest, I would hope there would have been five different ideas. You sit there and put in all this time in, to me an abstention is disrespecting all the other people. If I don't agree with something, I say it. I have seen you do that and defend the Council. Your history helps a lot because you have seen a lot of people go through the commissions and the Councils." Bonin, "Some people are different. I will speak my mind, but some people won't. You can't have a whole committee like that, you want a diverse group."

Lou Cornicelli, "I did not study for the test." Lawrence, "What do you think is your greatest asset you can bring to the city?" Cornicelli, "I didn't speak much the first half of my term, because I wanted to learn about the commission first. My civic responsibility. In my day job I interact with the legislature. I understand process so when you put a draft ordinance in front of me, I am pretty good at picking things apart. I am pretty analytical."

Moegerle, "What ordinances do you think should be changed or need attention?" Cornicelli, "I haven't been on the commission long enough to make that determination. As things are put before us, you start to form opinions on what can work and what doesn't work." Koller, "With the growth of East Bethel, and we are talking about expanding and building new businesses. But, we already have buildings that are dilapidated and/or eyesores. What is your opinion on that?" Cornicelli, "You are right. As you drive through town it is a couple liquor stores and gas stations. As far as razing and reconstructing the dilapidated buildings

that would be thinking more broadly and we should be looking at ways to do that. One of the reasons I moved here was the rural character. East Bethel is half wetlands. That rural character is important to a lot of people that live here.”

Ronning, “Thinking about that area, I have driven through this area for 40 years and other than the bank and theater, nothing has changed. What would you do with that area?”

Cornicelli, “We go to the theater because it is close. In Ady Voltedge’s results from the surveys and meetings they had, retail was on top of the list for what residents wanted to see in East Bethel. I would like to shop in East Bethel. A Wal-Mart, Target, a major retailer would be a good start to get other businesses to the area.”

DeRoche, “How big a place do you think senior housing is in this picture? I agree with Lorraine. I would hope that is going to be part of the larger comprehensive plan, towards the City Center with shopping nearby. Not only a senior center, but also a hotel.” Moegerle, “At the November Council meeting an issue came up about someone buying property at 221st and 65 and using the property including removing the blight. Is that the best we can hope for at removing rundown buildings?” Cornicelli, “I would like to read the minutes first before I answer that since I am not familiar with the issue.” Moegerle, “If we let them purchase the property and clean it up, is that the best use?” Cornicelli, “Cleaning it up to run a junk yard is not always going to be an immediate benefit.”

Lawrence, “We are looking for bigger block stores such as Target and Wal-Mart, but we found one thing that is hindering them from coming here. We do not have enough housing to sustain them. When we contacted them they said we do not have enough rooftops to support the big stores yet.” Cornicelli, “It is kind of the chicken and egg thing. Do you put up the housing and hope they will come? Put up a big box store? I am not sure if the analysis took into account existing behavior. Current needs versus future needs.” Ronning, “I don’t envy your position and how you answer these questions. Back to the chicken and egg. Do you think there is any natural flow?” Cornicelli, “I would think the housing would go up first. We have the ability to draw from Oak Grove, Athens Township, and all the commuters.”

Randy Plaisance, “I recently ran for City Council, thank you for an entertaining time. At that time I expressed my desire to give back my time.” Moegerle, “I see you have applied for the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the Planning Commission. What is it about the Planning Commission that makes it a good fit for you?” Plaisance, “Well that is entirely up to you. I would love to do both. As I have mentioned, I think it is critical that all of the departments of the City are working together. For the harmony of the city. As far as the chicken and the egg, we already have the housing. And we understand that from Ady Voltedge, we aren’t going to get the businesses yet, we understand that. It is going to take someone, either the Planning Commission and/or the EDA, and take the ordinances and get them set so that all our places are set. Such as the one at 221st and Highway 65, that one is a particular problem because of how the ordinance reads. More or less it needs to be sewered before it can be developed.”

Moegerle, “What in particular needs to be changed?” Plaisance, “Keeping an open mind.” DeRoche, “Are you talking departments or commissions? As far as I know the City departments do a pretty bang-up job.” Plaisance, “I have said that the commissions need to work together, have meetings together and know what each other are doing.” DeRoche, “A lot of talk has been said about development. The infrastructure is going to happen. That is the reality. We have to put something bigger in here to generate more ERUs.”

DeRoche, "How do you feel about the businesses on the southwest side of Highway 65 and 22? How do we make them look better?" Plaisance, "We will always have things like that. We won't always make them happy and if they don't want to do it, it will take a lot of work." Lawrence, "You have to remember it is up to the Planning Commission to direct those people to make the corrections." Moegerle, "Isn't that staff's responsibility?" Davis, "Typically, yes it is."

Lawrence, "Thank you all for answering our questions. It shows the forethought and process that you went through when you were on the committee." Ballots were passed out and tallied.

Moegerle made a motion to reappoint to the Planning Commission Lorraine Bonin, Lou Cornicelli and appoint Randy Plaisance for terms from January 16, 2013 to January 16, 2016. Lawrence seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Economic
Development
Authority
Interviews

Davis explained that terms for two EDA Commission members, Sherry Allenspach and Mike Conner, expire on January 31, 2013.

In response to these vacancies, we advertised on the City's website, at the Town Hall meeting and at City Hall. The City received a letters of interest from John Landwehr, Laurie Morgan and Randy Plaisance. Sherry Allenspach had decided not to re-apply. Mike Conner would like to be reappointed and he has submitted an application. An additional candidate, Polly Daas, was expected to submit her application but decided not to. We have left the application acceptance period open until Wednesday, January 16th at 3:00 p.m.

We have included copies of all letters of interest received as part of your agenda materials.

Staff is recommending Council interview the candidates for the two EDA Commission vacancies and makes appointments. One term would be for four years and would expire on January 31, 2017 and the other term would be for five years and would expire on January 31, 2018.

Mike Conner, "I appreciate the opportunity to come before you. I have served on the EDA for the last three years. It has been a real learning experience. I commend Heidi and her leadership and the previous council. First year I was on the authority, I was a bit frustrated with the pace and the way we were moving forward. I have asked you to consider my re-appointment because I am pleased with how the EDA is now moving forward under the current leadership. The overriding reason I am asking you to reconsider my reappointment is because I know about the significant challenges ahead. The EDA, Planning Commission and Council have to be on the same page. We have significant challenges facing us. I started a small business in this City about seven years ago, and I couldn't have had a better experience with the City in gaining the Interim Use Permit (IUP). When I was asked at the outset to consider this position, I remember saying them that City government has to be business friendly. The City of East Bethel has demonstrated consistently that we are business friendly. I want the businesses and residents to know that. Personally, I want everyone to know that."

Moegerle, "Mike, you have been great to work with on the EDA. One thing about the EDA is we spend a lot of time brainstorming and cheerleading and want to advance our goals. What would be your specific goals or objectives?" Connor, "To resolve the issues that lie ahead about going forward with water and sewer. We need to be able to pay for it."

Moegerle, "Because right now it is the residents that will pay for it." Connor, "There must be something done to develop the Highway 65 corridor." Moegerle, "Give us a vision for the City. What is your idea of how the city should develop?" Connor, "We need more retail, I remember in an EDA meeting three or so months ago asking where are we at with the Ady Voltedge results and implementing those. I would keep those in the forefront and pursue that. I would move forward with the pursuit of development on Highway 65 and senior housing. On the west side of 65 they want privacy, but they also want a convenient place to go shopping. We have to protect what it is that attracted us to move to East Bethel. But, also how nice it would be to have dry cleaners near Highway 65 and 22? Let's continue to aggressively study and implement the recommendations from the study."

DeRoche, "You made the statement that Ady Voltedge came in and did the study. We spent a lot of money. Unless people come to the meetings, you are not going to have a handle of what was done. We have to be creative. Some of the people's idea of development there is no way it is possible. We do have good property to be developed. But, the last few years there have been a few struggles." Connor, "With regard to Ady Voltedge, they were very good. I was very excited about their recommendations. We spent a lot of money on this. We should be implementing the recommendations, talking to developers, trying to get a forcemain up here." Moegerle, "One thing I have learned is, as a government, we move at the speed of glaciers. We have tunnel vision of 'Let's get this done.' But staff has a whole City to run. But, now that we have almost a full staff, we should be able to start getting some of this done."

John Landwehr introduced himself. Moegerle, "I almost wondered with your background if the Road Commission would be something you would be more interested in?" Landwehr, "I have been involved with economic development for 20 years. I have developed engineering firms for 25 years. I think you need to have a brand message. When you talk about development areas, you can always do wetland credits. If you have an area that is a little shy, you can do this. If you look at the City of Osseo, they have a great plan that you could look at. They cleaned up their intersections with viable businesses, all done with grants." Ronning, "In Osseo, it is one street to drive down. It is a lot different now." Landwehr, "There is also the City of Benson, a different type of development. They are developing on the east and west side of the road. The project has been going on since 2007 to bring in more housing. You can get help, but you have to seek it."

Moegerle, "What is the single quality you would bring to EDA?" Landwehr, "Experience. And if someone has taken the lead on those things that is great." Koller, "Communication is great. I think the problem with East Bethel is no one talked to the businesses. Chanticlear Pizza was one of them. They left and went just down the road to another city. Taxes are one reason." Moegerle, "Brand is so important. And we are working on a new City website. We are also hearing good things about East Bethel from the County and the State." Ronning, "When someone like Chanticlear leaves, that is a loss to the City."

Laurie Morgan, "I have lived in this community since 1974. I am attending Metropolitan State University and wanted to get involved in the community. I ran into Heidi at the library and ended up attending meetings and was intrigued with the cooperation. I see positive changes with the community. I have kids, and as far as our future, I would like to see some growth in the community for the children. I would see a YMCA come to the community." Moegerle, "There was a class you took in public engagement and then here you are." Morgan, "Yes, I meant to bring that book I am going to borrow you. It is the best. In that book it talks about working together and making things better in your community."

Moegerle, "If we want to get people involved in Council meetings, do we need to offer cookies and coffee? What do we need to do?" DeRoche, "The meetings go out on cable, they are on the internet. We are doing a good job communicating. People need to make an effort to be involved." Moegerle, "Our new website will have place where people can leave comments and get feedback." Morgan, "I am working on a project for Highway 65, but I don't want to say anything about it. In the next two years, I would like to see a YMCA in East Bethel."

Randy Plaisance, "I already talked at length earlier about some of the things I am interested in. I talked about properties and getting people's interest in things. We have to get people attracted to the city. How can we take advantage of entertainment? My interest is providing the inspiration." Moegerle, "What do you think the next steps are in branding?" Plaisance, "I think we can go further than the website. Take the brand and expand it to everything we have. Further than putting it on the website, creating the brand and putting it out to the people."

Lawrence, "I want to thank everyone that has come tonight to apply for the EDA Commission. This is a tough one, especially since we have more applicants than openings." Moegerle, "If you are not appointed, please consider staying involved." Ballots were passed out and then tallied.

Lawrence made a motion to appoint to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) John Landwehr for a term to run February 1, 2013 to January 31, 2017 and Mike Conner for a term to run February 1, 2013 to January 31, 2018. Ronning seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Road Commission Interviews

Davis explained that the terms for two Road Commission members, Jeff Jensen and Roger Virta, expire on January 31, 2013. There has also been an additional vacancy that has not been filled on this committee for the past year.

In response to these vacancies, we advertised on the City's website, at the Town Hall meeting and at City Hall. The City received a letter of interest from Kermit Kirkevold. In addition, both members who terms expire on January 31, 2013 have submitted letters expressing an interest in continuing to serve on the Road Commission. We have left the application acceptance period open until Wednesday, January 16th at 3:00 p.m.

We have included copies of all letters of interest received as part of your agenda materials.

Staff is recommending Council interview the candidates for the three Road Commission vacancies and makes appointments. The terms are for three years and would expire on January 31, 2016.

Jeff Jensen, "I have been on the Commission for 6 to 8 years. In that time it has changed a lot. We used to work a lot on plats and new roads. Now we are doing a lot of stuff with maintenance. I would like to recognize the City Administrator and Council for continuing to fund the street maintenance projects." Moegerle, "What would be your highest priority as far as public safety for the roads?" Jensen, "As far as public safety? We have some almost 90 degree corners that are almost pitch black. But, we have the question, 'Do you maintain the higher traffic roads or spend money on improvement?' Because we can only do so much without raising taxes. My choice would be maintaining the roads and then when we get developers in and then the City can start spending money focusing on public safety. I have

been the public works supervisor in Fridley for 20 years. I work for a much larger city. I see a lot of road infrastructure failures. We are getting sewer and water here in East Bethel, and there are a lot of issues with repair.” Koller, “You have a lot of experience in roads and we have a road that is a nightmare, Viking Boulevard. No one seems to know why, but there have been many deadly accidents on there.” DeRoche, “That is a county road. We had a meeting with a lot of bigwigs attending. Jack and I attended. A lot of the accidents there had no common threads. We have passed a resolution asking the state to perform a speed study to see if the speed should be lowered.” Jensen, “You have wide shoulders, shallow ditches, and poor driving. And it just so happened that four were lumped together. If they were spread out, it wouldn’t have been such an issue.”

Kermit Kirkevold, “I live on Edmar Lane on Coon Lake. I have been out here for 17 years. I have noticed on the roads system, when we are talking about growth that on Highway 65, on days that I do go to work, it is backed up on County Road 22 to the church and further. Part of this is the residents coming in from Cambridge and Isanti. You have seen what they have done with the updating of parts of Highway 65 and 22. County Road 22 is a very good road, but, traffic has grown by about five times. And, now we are looking at growth again on Highway 65. I do agree with Jensen that the roads need to be updated, that they are dangerous. There is going to have to be a lot of work needed on the roads system, because of growth and the sewer and water system. You should have some money coming in from the county, and the legislature is looking at putting a tax on gasoline.” DeRoche, “County Road 22 is county road.” Kirkevold, “I realize that. But we have a lot of off shots from that county road and a lot of that is going to need to be updated.” Moegerle, “With the sewer and water coming in, what about the fate of frontage roads?” Kermit, “I agree that frontage roads will need to be put in. I understand that there will be a need for them along the highway.”

Roger Virta, “I’ve been on the Road Commission for 10 years or so. I would like to be re-appointed.” Moegerle, “What issues do you see? We have a capital improvement plan. After that what is the priority?” Virta, “The road access to the City Center development is one of the main things that needs to be considered. As we develop that area around County Road 22 and Highway 65, the access is going to be important. And the primary thing we have to do is predict the existing residents.”

Tim Harrington, “I am recently retired and I want to get involved on the Road Commission. We have to have good roads for businesses.” Moegerle, “What priority do you see for the Road Commission?” Harrington, “There are roads that need work in East Bethel.” Moegerle, “Have you been down Klondike lately?” Lawrence, “Do you have any specialties to offer the commission?” Harrington, “I worked for the power companies.”

Ballots were passed out and then tallied.

Lawrence made a motion to reappoint to the Road Commission Jeff Jensen and Roger Virta for terms until January 31, 2016 and to appoint Tim Harrington for a term beginning January 16, 2013 until January 31, 2016. Moegerle seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Kermit Kirkevold was asked if he would consider the Park Commission. Kirkevold said he would be glad to consider the Park Commission.

Davis explained that terms for two Park Commission members, Bonnie Harvey and Ken Langmade, expire on January 31, 2013. There is also been an additional vacancy on this committee that was unfilled in 2012.

In response to these vacancies, we advertised on the City's website, at the Town Hall meeting and at City Hall. The City has not received any letters of interest. Both members who terms expire on January 31, 2013 have submitted letters expressing an interest in continuing to serve on the Park Commission. We have left the application acceptance period open until Wednesday, January 16th at 3:00 p.m.

We have included copies of all letters of interest received as part of your agenda materials.

Staff is recommending Council interview the candidates for the three Park Commission Vacancies and make appointments. The terms are for three years and would expire on January 31, 2016.

Bonnie Harvey, "I've been on the Park Commission for over 20 years. I went from spending a summer trying to build a shelter to doing what we do now. Personally, I am proud of our accomplishments and how we have grown. I have a passion for trails and not a trail that goes nowhere. I have a funny dream/wish, I love a zoo. As a small child I used to go to the game farm and I had the privilege of going in the game farm and looking at all the animals and it was a great treat for me. But wherever I go and travel I always look for a zoo. The other thing I look for is naturalized wild grasses and wildflowers. I think it would be neat if we could do that somewhere here."

DeRoche, "Did you grow up in East Bethel?" Harvey, "I have lived over 50 years in East Bethel and Ham Lake." Ronning, "Are you satisfied with how the parks are maintained?" Harvey, "They could always be better, but my biggest thing is safety. I think they could be better, but they have come a long way." Lawrence, "How could we better utilize our parks?" Harvey, "One example is Maynard Peterson. We have a beautiful softball field that isn't being played on. Teams had to have a \$1,000,000 bond to play there, so they are playing at the SRO instead. Parks go through cycles. It is good to see the park at Coon Lake being used again. A while ago, I was coaching two baseball teams there, 20-30 kids there at a time. The problem I have seen is we tried to change it to give older kids or teenagers something to do. But, we did move the skateboard park and it gets used." Davis, "And we have received no complaints from over there." Harvey, "I think a lot of issues are the cycle of the neighborhood. I would like to see some kind of trail system going, they will be used more." Lawrence, "For years I heard about the trail system of East Bethel. I said, 'Let's go on the trail.' So we did and I found out they didn't go anywhere."

Ken Langmade, "I have been on the Park Commission for six years now and I have been involved in youth programs for many, many years. We have a lot of things that need to be done. We have a new program coming out involving Linwood and some other cities with the possibilities of grant monies and I would like to stay on the committee to work on these things."

Moegerle made a motion to reappoint to the Park Commission Bonnie Harvey and Ken Langmade for terms until January 31, 2016 and Kermit Kirkevold for a term beginning January 16, 2013 until January 31, 2016. Lawrence seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Davis explained that Jared Trost served as the City resident representative of the URRWMO for many years. He resigned in October of 2012.

In response to this vacancy, we advertised on the City's website, at the Town Hall meeting and at City Hall. The City has received a letter of interest from Calvin Bahr. We have left the application acceptance period open until Wednesday, January 16th at 3:00 p.m.

We have included copies of all letters of interest received as part of your agenda materials.

Staff is recommending Council interview the candidates for the vacancy as the East Bethel Resident Representative on the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization and makes an appointment. Previously, this appointment has not had a term and staff recommends assigning a term of four years to this position.

Davis explained that Mr. Bahr couldn't be here tonight, he was out of town. But, Council has met him previously at a Council meeting.

DeRoche made a motion to appoint Calvin Bahr to the Upper Rum River Watershed Organization for a term beginning January 16, 2013 until January 31, 2017 (four years). Moegerle seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Anoka County
Board
Meeting at
East Bethel
City Hall

Davis explained that Anoka County contacted staff and requested to use our Council Chambers for the Tuesday, February 12, 2013 for their Management Committee meeting and Anoka County Board of Commissioner's meeting. The meetings start at 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. respectively.

The county has been using other facilities in Anoka County for their board meetings to give Anoka County residents access to the meetings for over a year. In 2012 they held meetings at Centerville City Hall, Columbia Heights City Hall, Anoka City Hall and ISD #15.

Staff recommends Council approve the request from Anoka County to hold their Management Committee meeting and Board of Commissioner's meetings on Tuesday, February 12 at East Bethel City Hall in Council Chambers.

Moegerle made a motion to approve the request from Anoka County to hold their board meetings at East Bethel City Hall in Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. DeRoche seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Adjourn

DeRoche made a motion to adjourn at 9:42 PM. Moegerle seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Attest:

Wendy Warren
Deputy City Clerk