

EAST BETHEL TOWN HALL MEETING

April 27, 2011

The East Bethel City Council met on April 27, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. for their Town Hall Meeting in Council Chambers.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Bob DeRoche Richard Lawrence Heidi Moegerle
 Steve Voss

COUNCIL EXCUSED: Bill Boyer

ALSO PRESENT: Jack Davis, Interim City Administrator
 Rita Pierce, Director of Fiscal and Support Services
 Stephanie Hanson, City Planner
 Mark DuCharme, Fire Chief
 Craig Jochum, City Engineer
 Larry Martin, Building Official/Code Enforcement Officer
 Lt. Michelle Orlando, Anoka County Sheriff's Office

Call Meeting to Order Lawrence called the Town Hall Meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.
 Davis introduced the staff present and Andy Westerberg, County Commissioner.

Mark DuCharme, fire chief announced that right now and since April 15th we have been under a burning restriction. He said what that means is we are limiting open burning until the green up happens, every year this happens the DNR tells us that you can't burn. DuCharme said you can have a recreational fire. He said this usually stays on until the week of May 2nd. DuCharme said and he wants to tell you it doesn't do any good to ask for a permit, because a gentlemen came into the fire station and we called the DNR and they said no, and there was some snow on the ground. He said a lot of us have recreational fires and it is a good idea to let your neighbor know when you are going to have a recreational fire.

Andy Westerberg, county commissioner said he has a question about the sewer and water. He said as far as he knows, Anoka County isn't involved in the project on Co. Road 22 but his concern is someone checking where lines are run, is the right of way at least far back enough to conform to state limits, we want to be able to turn this road back to the state to be able to have it be a state road. Westerberg said that way it will not be an expense to taxpayers again at some time to have the lines rerun. Jochum said we met with the county and MnDOT about six months ago and we are confident that the lines are far enough back even if that ever turns into an interchange. He said there is a small part that would have to be changed. Voss said MnDOT was at this meeting and they gave us their blessing. Davis said Kate Garwood was there and we got concurrence from MnDOT and Garwood concurred.

Bob Stoner of 19315 East Front Blvd. NE said he saw in a Star Tribune article that after Phase 1 we would need private wells and sewer again. Davis said you are referring to the article in yesterday's newspaper and they did not get the facts right, as this system grows there may be a need for additional treatment plants and wells. He said that is what the article should have said.

Bob Jacobson of 20628 East Bethel Blvd. NE said in the letter from the auditor, what would

have been the outcome if they would have been told the truth. He said at the time the locksmith had been called the present Council had not been sworn in, and the acting city administrator had not been appointed. Jacobson said he has done some checking and the deputy was called before Mr. Schaaf was appointed. Moegerle said she doesn't think it would have been any different, but it would be up to the auditor to decide, but she thinks they had the truth.

Diane Jacobson of 20628 East Bethel Blvd NE said it is a fact that Schaaf lied to the state auditor or someone lied to them, because the locksmith was sitting in the audience and it cost the City \$1,300, but a private citizen said we know who you are so go change the locks now. She said so that means as a private citizen I can say go change the locks now. Jacobson said the new Council totally destroyed what it took years to build. She said you came in here like Rambo's and gave nobody a chance; you came in with your own agenda. Jacobson said you didn't want to work with anybody, it was very obvious. She said when her husband had to go out to Coon Lake Beach and sell tickets for the fire dance she would go along, they wanted a fire man, they didn't want her. Jacobson said it is time you done the City right, you lied when you campaigned, you convinced the people the sewer system was going residential, before you speak you better check your facts. She said there was so many meetings on the sewer system, didn't see you or her, didn't see you at many of them. Jacobson said she would have seen you at the meetings. Lawrence said he was asked before the locks were changed. Jacobson asked by who. Lawrence said the deputy clerk. He said and he was sworn in, and as far as being at the meetings, he was at a lot of the meetings. Lawrence said he asked for information and he couldn't get information. Jacobson said that's funny, she met with the contractors privately.

Tom Ronning of 20941 Taylor Street NE said he thinks you did the right thing and he is pleased to see the way the Council is working. He said he couldn't get information and he had been asking for six years.

Josh Sturman of 226 Elm Road NE said first he wants to wish you good luck and he has high hopes for the whole thing, he wouldn't want to be in your position. He said he is here tonight representing the Coon Lake Improvement Association (CLIA). Sturman said he has sportsman memberships that are just \$10, includes 3 meals, and golfing. He said see me if you want to sign up for that.

Voss said one of the newer things we have and wanted for along time is the Council meetings streamed on our website. He asked who has watched it. Voss said we got this at a reasonable cost and hope you are utilizing it. Dale Williams said the Council meeting on Channel 10 is not playing back correctly, it starts late in the tape. Resident asked why the acoustics in Council Chambers is not so good, but good on Channel 10. Council replied we will try to fix this eventually.

Jeff Martin of 1130 233rd Avenue NE said on his tax statement it says miscellaneous taxes and when he called Anoka County he was told they had to do with the Met Council, and the City using that for surveys. He said he is wondering if we should plan on that being continued on our taxes. Pierce said the only questions we have gotten is on a special levy. Martin said he believe it said miscellaneous and either the county or Met Council said your City did a survey about the City Center and that is the charge. Davis said that is the HRA levy, it comes from the county. He said it is subject to the change every year and this year the county levied as much as they could. Martin asked what is the HRA. Davis said Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and there is a possibility it won't be the counties program soon. He said if the City

administered the program we could lower the levy. Lawrence said we have a lawsuit with the county, the HRA levies against the City residents to do HRA, if we win the lawsuit then the HRA would go away and we could do our own HRA. Moegerle said they levy and we can use the money. Voss said it used to be a line item so you could see what it was.

Sturman said he wants to mention the good work that CLIA has done. He said we do walleye stocking, storm water prevention, etc. He said the City has been fairly supportive of those programs and might be matching some funds.

Lawrence said we have been really busy. He said the programs we have been working on is we shifted money that was allocated for trails to improve our roads, the GRE power line, the sheriff budget is up for review, we modified the water treatment plant from 5.8 million to 1.4 million, so that is kind of what we have been working on.

Katherine Kretchmar of 19739 East Bethel Blvd NE said she knows some of that money came from Met Council does the reduction of the water plant reduce their money. Davis said this does not have anything to do with the Met Council funds; the reduction is in the footprint of the water treatment plant.

Lawrence said he has had some interesting calls since he took office. He said about the snowplowing drifting so he calls Davis and he fixes it. Lawrence said he has had calls about water and sewer from people that are concerned that they are going to be taxed out of their homes and he is meeting with Mr. Schueller on Saturday to see if we meet our growth we will be okay. He said we had some scatters that moved in, we decided that Louie Le Pew had to move. Davis said these were skunks on Yancy Street NE and they had moved into a vehicle.

Moegerle said we are working on a web site update. She said we looked at all web sites for cities with populations of 10,000 to 20,000. Moegerle said our website template is no longer sponsored by GovOffice. She said we have a survey in the Community/Senior Center. Moegerle said we would like your input. She said we are hoping to see changes soon.

Deanna Kleven from Viking Meadows, also a resident at 2030 189th Avenue NE asked what the next step for sewer and water is. She said she knows you drilled test wells and the water came back favorable and the iron content was not really visible. Jochum said we had two test wells done. He said the pipe contractor is anxious to get going. Jochum said the water tower will likely be later this summer, erected this winter and paint next spring. Lawrence said this is a two year project. He said the Met council said they might not be finished in two years.

Moegerle made a motion to adjourn the Town Hall meeting at 7:38 p.m. DeRoche seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

ATTEST:

Wendy Warren
Deputy City Clerk