

Minutes/2018 Strategic Priority City Council Work Session
Monday, January 29, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.

The 2018 Strategic Priority Planning City Council Work Session met on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in Room A102, City Hall. Present were: Sande, Weigel, Schneider, Mock, Marshall, Vein, and Weber (via phone) – 7.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Brown.

I. Recap and Summary of 2017 Strategic Priorities and Status

Todd Feland reviewed the 2017 Strategic Priorities and Status plan. Moving into 2018 continue to work on sales tax, joint meetings with other entities, and legislative funding. 2018 Action Items: need to continue getting funding for the GFWTP and RRVWSP. 2017/2018 City of Grand Forks Organizational Improvements will continue to look for overall technology upgrades, employee benefits, and cost savings. We are mainly looking for ways to be more efficient.

II. Grand Forks Main Street Initiative Follow Up
Healthy, Vibrant Community; 21st Century Workforce; Smart, Efficient
Infrastructure

Todd Feland briefed Council on various programs being developed in the community which aligns us with the Mayors Downtown Community and Way Cooler Thank You Think Campaign. Also, reviewed economic development in the community with various businesses like Agri Business, Unmanned Systems, Energy and Environment, Manufacturing, Healthcare, and Professional Services. Also continue to explore collaboration with East Grand Forks with rural water.

III. FY 2019 and beyond Budget Discussion

Maureen Storstad reviewed the 2017 General Fund Budget Recap. Percent of Budget Revenues were 99.97% and Expenses were 99.57%. These are preliminary numbers and still include estimates as all accruals have not yet been recorded. Mid-year and lowered by \$350,000 with this state aid and came in at 98% of amended budget. Sales tax passes. Water rates had been budgeted for a 6% increase in 2018, Due to the passage of sales tax this was amended for a 0% water rate increase. Paul Houdek mentioned the median value of a home has increased 43%. Mills went down with buy-down. Storstad showed the impact of the change made to the 12% property relief. She shared an estimated tax statement showing 22% overall, need to give preliminary approval to the Council. Council budget a month earlier this year. Maureen reviewed a 2019 tentative budget timeline, February/March would be the time period to hold strategy sessions if council chooses. The last work session is planned for July 9th. Need a couple more months to know more on the sales tax due to state law. Houdek mentioned that commercial and residential running 94%, typically make a market adjustment but not planning on it. 2017-2018 2.5% increase overall, too early to make a prediction. In April the amount will show up on taxes. Weber mentioned that the people in the growing areas need to find ways to pay for things like fire and ambulance.

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IV. Public Art Briefing and Way Forward

Mike Kuntz went over various ideas for Grand Forks to have different types of art around the city, sculptures, murals, and lights. They are doing their own fundraising and they are half way there. Plan to be done in the next 60 days and then come back with concrete plans to begin in the fall. They will be the ones who would take care of the maintaining of the art. Feland asked that if council didn't have a problem with using private dollars first and then ours. Weber mentioned we need to change the mural law. Sande thanked the Mayor for putting aside money for public art for the community and said we could consider helping Mike with funding by matching grants. Feland said we'd come back with some concepts. Feland said we'll wait and see when Mike gets his funding and bring it to council in a couple months.

V. Public Library Briefing and Way Forward

Wendy Wendt and Justin Berry reviewed their ideas and concerns for the library. They are open 255 days a year. They have 900 children in the summer programs. They said they have a foundation for fund raising but are waiting for direction from the council as what to do. Went over locations for library and also the parking/bus issues. Another issue is they are not ADA compliant with the bathrooms. They would like more outlets and tables along the wall if the carpet is replaced and move the stacks around too. Their library is about 30,000 square feet and their consultant said for this size of a community it should be 70,000 square feet. They do not have meeting rooms and not enough parking. People are unaware they can borrow some things from the library like temperature meters, Nooks, DVD's, and Roko. Weber mentioned to look into false floors in the bathrooms instead of breaking up the concrete to possibly save money. Sande asked what differentiates Grand Forks library from UND's and East Grand Forks? Wendy said UND is more research and very small children and public section. East Grand you have to pay to get a card if you are from North Dakota to use theirs and the same way if Minnesota wants to use Grand Forks. UND students can use their cards to use the Grand Forks Library. Feland said they will get a technical team together to format and summarize information. They will review and meet in the spring to work together to work on report.

VI. Other Discussion

Mayor asked if there were any items, there were none.

Mayor Brown motioned to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nola Pithey
Administrative Specialist, Senior