

## **City Council Initiatives 2020 Third Quarter Update October 12, 2020**

The City Council received a mid-year update of progress toward Strategic Initiatives, on July 13, 2020. That update is enclosed for reference. Over the last quarter there has been continued progress toward these initiatives. A compendium of the major items addressed by the City Council or staff follow.

### **Accessibility**

- The R2R tunnel bid was awarded by Dakota County on July 14 after various approvals by the City. This long awaited project will be complete by yearend 2021.
- Approval of the 2021 Budget and CEP/CIP includes allocations of \$500,000/year to construct sidewalk and transportation trail gaps. The first expenditures from this fund will be to complete sidewalk gaps on Moreland Avenue in 2021 (\$160,000 CIP estimate), Crusader Avenue in 2022 (\$350,000 CIP estimate) and toward the following projects.
- On September 2 the TAB Technical Advisory Committee ranked the WSP Safe Routes to School application for a Bidwell Street walkway as the second highest of six applications for \$640,000 in Federal funding toward an \$800,000 construction project (plus ROW). Final funding determination is anticipated to occur in January 2021. If funded, this would be a 2022 project.
- On September 2, the TAB Technical Advisory Committee ranked the WSP Multi Use Trail and Bicycle facility on Oakdale as the eighth highest of thirty eight applications for \$1,785,600 in Federal funding toward a \$2,232,000 construction project (plus ROW). Final funding determination is anticipated to occur in January 2021. If funded, this would be a 2023 project.

### **Blighted Properties** (aka economic activity)

- CARES ACT small business grant program was approved July 27 and grants were awarded on September 28 to twenty-nine local businesses.
- Approved a business redevelopment grant to expand The BLVD Bar and Grille, 433 E Mendota Road, July 27.
- Approved changes in Liquor ordinance to allow multiple establishment ownership July 27.
- Approved a business redevelopment grant for a remodel of the Jameson's Irish Bar (fka Cherokee Tavern), 886 Smith Avenue on August 17.
- Rezoning of property at Town Center 1 approved September 14 with a construction start anticipated by year end on 184 housing units with a small amount of commercial space.
- The Site Plan for an expansion of the Canine Coach, 1700 Marthaler Lane, was approved September 28.
- Zoning Ordinance amendment allowing for increased development density received its first reading September 28.

## **Branding and Identity**

- Council/EDA returned to “in person” meetings in the Council Chambers on July 13 (meetings had been virtual since March 23 due to the pandemic) with a few changes. While social distancing limited in Chambers attendance, the City provided viewing of meetings on lobby and conference room monitors and provided call-in opportunities for citizen input and Public Hearings. Also, began cablecasting OCWS, and Park and Recreation Committee meetings to facilitate improved communication to the public.
- A new social media policy was adopted July 27.
- Amended Tobacco Ordinance July 27.
- Became the sixth City in the state to adopt a conversion therapy ban on August 17.
- Expanded allowable domestic animals (backyard chickens) August 17.
- Recognized Direct Support Professionals Week approved September 14.
- The Police Department has consistently conducted community outreach and community building activities through time. With the on-going pandemic, those activities have been curtailed. However, upon neighborhood traffic and crime concerns, the Department has participated in three neighborhood meetings this past quarter.

## **Diversity and Inclusion**

- Council proclaimed September 15 to October 14 Hispanic Heritage Month September 14.
- The candidate pool for advertised positions through the third quarter has been 29% non-white. Hires have been 38% non-white. Both measures are improved from the prior reporting period.

## **Fiscal Constraints**

- CARES ACT Expenditure Plan adopted July 27; allocations from that plan adopted August 17 and 31. Amended the Expenditure Plan due to evolving Federal guidance on September 28.
- CARES ACT Elections Expenditure Plan adopted August 31.
- Through September 9, the City has received \$875,245 in sales tax revenue toward the projected \$1.3 million 2020 budget estimate; these funds are allocated toward the 2021 street project.
- NDC4 Cable ten-year Franchise Agreement approval September 14.
- Preliminary 2021/22 Budget and maximum 2021 Levy adopted September 14. The preliminary levy rate is 3% below that which had been previously projected.
- Dome ionization from CARES allocation approved September 14 mitigating customer concerns regarding COVID spread.

## **Housing Stock**

- The Housing Plan was adopted July 27.
- The 54 unit first phase of the Gateway Place affordable Dakota CDA housing project at 895 Robert was approved July 27.

- Approved sale and development agreements from Oppidan to Trilogy for the 153 unit market multifamily project at Thompson Oaks on July 27. Building permit is approved for a late fall construction start.
- The Dominion affordable housing project (247 unit senior and 146 unit workforce housing) received final entitlements on August 31. Building permit is approved for a construction start around year end.
- The 184 unit Town Center 1 mixed use project received its final entitlements on September 14.
- Approved the Wentworth Townhome access agreement on August 31 allowing for development of 16 additional townhomes by a future development interest.
- Approved Livable Communities Met Council Agreement on September 14.

### **Infrastructure and Public Facilities**

- With September 14 approval of the Change Order #4, the 2017-2020 PD/City Hall remodel project is substantially complete. The CIP and 2021/22 budgets include an allocation to ensure funds are available for future maintenance requirements.
- The preliminary 2021/22 budget approved on September 14 includes annual allocations of \$300,000/year toward mill/overlay and reconstruction of local (non-collector) streets; a similar allocation to build funding capacity had not been specifically included in past budgets. The preliminary budget also includes a new cost center providing information on local maintenance activities specific to Robert Street to improve transparency regarding expenditures on the corridor.
- On September 17, the City received notice that the Thompson/Oakdale roundabout project was recommended for funding by the TAC Program and Funding Committee of the Transportation Advisory Board. This would result in \$1,395,000 of Federal funding toward the \$1,550,000 project. The project is scheduled for 2023. The County has proposed a turn-back of this road segment with timing corresponding with the roundabout project.
- Final payment for sewer lining 19-8 closed out this project September 28.
- Consultant contract for Public Improvement Project 22-1 (Crusader Avenue) approved September 28. At this same meeting, the Council reviewed plans for the 2021 Street Construction Project (Moreland). Both of these projects will receive partial funding from the Sales Tax which took effect in 2020. A list of future projects eligible for proceeds from the sales tax is enclosed.
- Assessment hearing for 2020 street project called on September 28.

### **Parks**

- Approved a JPA with Dakota County regarding cost sharing design of the Garlough/Marthaler trail on August 17 and approved a consulting contract on August 31.
- Many of the developments noted above are providing park dedication fees to the City as part of development approvals. Receipt of these fees may allow park projects to advance faster than current projections.

## **Recreation**

- Due to COVID-19, many recreational programs has been delayed; however, following is an iteration of what has been able to be offered.
- July-August—Launched Virtual Little Tykes (K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) and Safe Kids (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) Safety Camps. These were partnered programs with local businesses, West St. Paul Police Department, South Metro Fire Department, and Mendota Heights Police, Fire, and Recreation Departments. The camp included several components such as pre-recorded safety videos, crafts and activities with supplies provided, and question and answer WebEx™ sessions with staff from the Recreation, Police, and Fire Departments.
- July-August—Coordinated with contractual programs to host COVID-19 safety compliant youth sports, musical theater, and art camps.
- September 21—Introduced a new program initiative called Story Stroll that brings children and families into our parks to read a book while making their way through our trails.
- July-Current—Continuation of modifying COVID-19 Program and Event Preparedness Plans for current and future programming.

## **Council Actions during the third quarter 2020 (the more significant actions)**

July 13 (first in-person Council since March 23)

- Approved 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Sale of Outlot to Hy-Vee, Inc.
- Approved 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Sale of Property to Dakota County for R2R

July 27

- Adopted CARES ACT Expenditure Plan
- Adopted CARES ACT Small Business Grant Program
- Approved Social Media Policy
- Approved Housing Plan
- Approved Preliminary and Final Plat for CDA Multi-Family Project 895 Robert
- Approved Site Plan/Plats and 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Rezoning for Apartment Buildings at 1201 Robert
- Amended Tobacco Ordinance
- Approved 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Hy-Vee Outlot Sale
- Approved 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of County R2R Sale
- Approved Termination of Oppidan Agreement and New Trilogy Agreement at Thompson Oaks by both Council and EDA
- Approved Sale of Property to EDA for Town Center 1 Project
- Approved Conversion Therapy Ban 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- Approved 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Domestic Animal Ordinance
- Approved Modification to Liquor Ordinance of Multiple Establishment Ownership
- EDA Approval of Business Subsidy Grant for Expansion of The BLVD Bar and Grille

August 14

- Canvass Board

August 17

- Approved JPA with Dakota County on Garlough/Marthaler Trail Design
- Approved 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Domestic Animal Ordinance
- Approved 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Modification to Liquor oOrdinance
- Approved 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Conversion Therapy Ban
- Approved 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Rezoning of 1201 Robert
- Approved CARES ACT Allocation 1
- Approved 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Sale of Town Center 1 Property to EDA
- EDA Approval of Business Subsidy Grant for Remodel of Cherokee (Jamison) Restaurant

August 31

- Approved CARES ACT Allocation Amendment
- Approved CARES Act Election Funding Agreement
- Approved Consultant Contract for Garlough/Marthaler Trail Design
- Approved 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Rezoning of Town Center 1 and CUP, Site Plan and Plats and TIF
- Approved TIF Plan for Dominion Housing Project; EDA Approval of TIF Decertification of District and Interfund Loan
- EDA Approval of Town Center 1 Sale and TIF
- EDA Approval of Wentworth Place HOA Access Agreement
- Approved 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of NDC4 Cable Franchise Agreement

September 14

- Preliminary Budget and Levy Adoption
- CEP/CIP Approval
- Cable Franchise Ordinance 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- Change Order #4 Closing Out PD Remodel
- Dome Air Purification Approval
- Enrollment in Livable Communities Program
- Rezoning Town Center 1 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- LCA Agreement Approval
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Direct Support Professionals Week
- Change Order #4 for PD/City Hall Project
- EDA Approved Encroachment Agreement at 1019 Smith Avenue

**September 28**

- Cares Act Amendment Approval
- CARES ACT Business Grants Approval

- Approved Consulting Contract for 22-1 Street Project (Crusader)
- Approved Site Plan at 1700 Marthaler Lane
- Approved Zoning Ordinance Amendment Regarding Lot Density
- Scheduled Assessment Hearing for 2020 Street Project
- Reviewed 2021 Street Project Road Section Options
- Received Presentation on Ranked Choice Voting