

To: **Mayor and City Council**
 From: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
 Date: **March 9, 2020**

Special Services District Discussion

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At OCWS workshops on August 12 and November 12, 2019, as part of the 2020-21 Budget review Council deliberated over what, if anything to dedicate toward startup costs of a proposed Special Services District (SSD) in the Robert Street area. Ultimately, no consensus occurred on the matter. However, in order to leave the door open for future discussions on December 6, 2019 Council was informed that the Budget document proposed for consideration at the December 9, 2019 meeting would include a \$25,000 allocation into the Innovation Fund. This fund does not have a designated budget expenditure in 2020 and exists in order to allow funding for mid-year initiatives should they occur. While the budget is not allocated toward the SSD, the SSD would be an expense that would be appropriate from this fund. The 2020 Budget was approved on December 9.

On February 26 and 27, 2020 members of Council had the opportunity to meet with Michael McLaughlin from Urban Works, a consultant specializing in creation and administration of SSD’s within Minnesota.

The suggestion from community members advocating for creation of an SSD is that the City allocate up to \$20,000 in order to provide startup funds toward creation of an SSD. It has been suggested that should the City provide such an allocation that there be check in points at which Council can determine if the effort is bearing fruit or not. The request at this time is to discuss a possible allocation and any other requirements.

Enclosed is a prior proposal from Urban Works, a memo from the City Attorney on the matter and the district map that has been proposed in the past.

FISCAL IMPACT:

		Amount
Fund:		
Department:		
Account:		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
Discussion.