

**City of Fairmont
100 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031**

City Council Minutes

July 23, 2024

Special Meeting: Goal Setting/Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Workshop

City Hall, 4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Fairmont City Council met in special session at the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Baarts called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council present: Lee Baarts, Mayor
Wayne Hasek, Councilmember
Britney Kawecki, Councilmember
Randy Lubenow, Councilmember
Jay Maynard, Councilmember
Michele Miller, Councilmember

Absent: None

Staff present: Matt Skaret, City Administrator
Tyler Cowing, City Engineer
Miles Heide, Electric Distribution Superintendent
Paul Hoye, Finance Director
Michael Hunter, Chief of Police
Ned Koppen, Economic Development Coordinator
Nick Lardy, Public Works Superintendent
Betsy Steuber, City Clerk
Rachel Viesselman, Human Resources Manager
Matthew York, Director of Public Works/Utilities

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council and all present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Maynard to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

ROTATING VOTES

Please note that votes taken by roll call are called by the City Clerk on a rotating basis; however, the written minutes list the Councilmembers in alphabetical order.

GOAL SETTING/CIP DISCUSSION

Mayor Baarts opened the Goal Setting/Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Discussion by asking councilmember to share their top priorities/overall goals for 2025. Priorities for each Councilmember are listed below, in no particular order.

Councilmember Kawecki

- Lakes/Water Quality
- Roads/Infrastructure
- Budget

Councilmember Maynard

- Maintain/Improve on what we currently have
- Monitor spending and spend wisely

Councilmember Miller

- Lakes
- Roads
- Infrastructure

Councilmember Hasek

- Streets

Councilmember Lubenow

- Long term facility planning
- Roads
- Rental Ordinance Enforcement
- Yard Waste Site

Director York reviewed the proposed street and infrastructure for years 2025-2029. The City has been spending \$1.5 to \$2 million annually on street improvements for the past several years. Director Hoye indicated approximately \$6.5 million is needed per year over the next 10 years to address the roads/infrastructure in the worse shape. Director Hoye stated raising the levy one million dollars, results in a 14.5% levy increase.

Administrator Skaret introduced the next common priority amongst Council: Lakes. In addition to the Lakes Restoration Fund, staff budgeted \$250,000 in 2025, and in the CIP, for the lakes. In the proposed budget, there is \$1.175 million over a 5-year period for curly pond weed mitigation and \$125,000 for George Lake dam inspection and repairs.

Director York addressed Council on the upgrade and replacement schedule of several vehicles and pieces of equipment in the Parks and Street Departments.

Superintendent Lardy shared that 1,200 ash trees have been removed from City parks with approximately 700 ash trees to be removed from City boulevards.

Director York sought guidance from Council on Veterans Park pickleball and basketball courts. City staff met with ISG, who conducted a surface inspection of the courts and provided staff with budgetary estimates, as listed below:

Project	Cost	Approximate Lifespan
Resurfacing both facilities	\$190,000	10 years
Reconstruction of basketball courts	\$246,000	50 years +
Reconstruction of pickleball courts	\$191,000	50 years +

After discussion, Council’s consensus to Director York was to include reconstruction of the pickleball courts in the budget.

Director York and Director Hoyer addressed Council and their questions on various municipal buildings, relating to usage, construction, updates/renovations, and/or replacement and suggested discussion at a separate meeting.

Director York stated \$1.2 million is budgeted for removal and replacement of the sidewalks/pavers downtown.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Lubenow, to adjourn the meeting, as there was no further business to come before the Council. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. The Fairmont City Council adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

ATTEST:



Betsy Steuber, City Clerk



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor