

**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018, 2018 6:00 PM – 8150 BARBARA AVENUE**

A. CALL TO ORDER: The City Council of Inver Grove Heights met in special meeting on Monday, March 12, 2018, in the Inver Grove Heights Council Chambers. Mayor George Tourville called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call: Present were Mayor Tourville, Councilmembers Bartholomew, Hark, Perry, and Piekarski Krech. Staff; City Administrator Joe Lynch, Attorney Tim Kuntz, City Clerk Michelle Tesser and Finance Director Kristi Smith.

1) COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Joe Lynch, City Administrator discussed that currently the city has been without a Marketing Coordinator position at the Parks and Recreation Department. Joe stated the PT Marketing Coordinator funds are in place recommendation is to have a Communication Manager and the Marketing Coordinator position would be under the Communication Manager. Lynch stated website management, social media, press releases, advertising/marketing enterprise funds, analytics, reporting.

Lynch discussed Facebook and Twitter for the public safety departments would be an oversight with the communication plan. Lynch discussed the internal communication device for staff. Resident and business communication methods. Lynch discussed upcoming needs including parks, economic development and other important information that residents/businesses should hear about to be transparent.

Lynch discussed the positions and job descriptions including salary survey.

Lynch stated that funding is included already in the budget with the positions' salaries. He discussed the financial costs and how they would be distributed. He stated that communication needs to be a priority. A communication plan is a framework for all departments to follow.

Lynch discussed the communication plan that would include best practices and feedback with department heads, managers and supervisors. He stated right now we don't have a centralized communication division.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated we need a communication plan before we hire someone.

Councilmember Hark stated he wants to formulate a policy going forward. He stated that we don't have the expertise on staff and that's why this position needs to be hired.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech stated we should have input on the communication position. Lynch stated that hasn't been protocol of the council in the past for this type of position to have council's input. He stated that council input has only been for department heads not supervisors.

Mayor Tourville stated that we need more social media. Tourville discussed the need for consistency with all city departments.

Councilmember Piekarski Krech talked about the doing another study of employees including revisiting the classifications and compensation of employees.

Councilmember Bartholomew questioned the qualifications indicated on the proposed Communication positions specifically the four-year degree and “related degree.” He stated he is in support of the position.

The council discussed the Marketing Coordinator position at length.

The council asked for the old job comparison of the Marketing Coordinator, salary study from other cities and other communication plans.

2) LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Patricia Nauman, Executive Director with Metro Cities Association of Metropolitan Municipalities,

Ms. Nauman stated its not a budget setting year. She discussed the federal bill and what that means for the State of Minnesota. She discussed the policy and stated that the forecast projected is a surplus. She discussed the bonding year and all the city’s legislative groups working together to push back on certain bills. Ms. Nauman stated there is a 150+ bills coming through every day.

Ms. Nauman discussed the legislative bills on affordable housing and the local roles on housing. She discussed the issue of levy limits and on funding. She stated Metro Cities has a bill on reform of the Met Council asking for staggered terms and structured nominees of the members. She stated it would change the Governor’s nomination power to include transparency of committees’ nominations. Ms. Nauman discussed continuity and responsibility over not being issue driven.

Ms. Nauman discussed restoring programs and auditor’s fund. She stated there are a lot of moving pieces.

Gary Carlson, Department Director with the League of MN Cities discussed the Tax Committee and the time commitment issues. He stated there will be people who are negatively affected, this is a huge change that hasn’t happened since the 1986 Tax Law changes. He discussed the federal law and the challenges that come with the changes. He discussed public pension and pension funding issues. He stated the funding issues are across governments: state, county, city and fire/police pensions. He stated this is a big deal and a pension bill is important. He stated they’re a lot of active retirees that will be affected. He stated there is a benefit increase for public safety retirees with bipartisan supported. The pension bill proposed will increase employee percentages.

He discussed reducing trucks on the street in St. Paul and Bloomington. He discussed organizing trash haulers. He stated there are bills with minor changes to the ability of cities to organize haulers. He discussed the special exemption bills from the cities of Plymouth and New Market/Elko. He stated tax bills will be heard after Easter.

Katie Sen, Lobbyist with Messerli & Kramer discussed commerce bills on trends of division and large municipal projects, she stated that program is a four-year program. Ms. Sen stated in the committee, the bill is at more than 50% spent in the greater area. She stated 95% will be a population increase in the metro. She stated funding for transportation are being eaten up and the percentage for the metro will be going down.

She discussed fiscal disparities and the financial pool being proposed to be used towards transportation projects. She stated it would benefit all cities even if you are a contributor. She discussed street bonding projects and the success of the Broderick Blvd Street project. She stated the Inver Grove Heights representatives have been telling a good story and both the Mayor Tourville and Joe Lynch have been at the capitol talking to the right people.

She discussed other transportation bills in the legislature. She pointed out the Inver Hills Community College and Dakota County Safety building are in the City of Inver Grove Heights. She stated Dakota County is a huge county and is the largest growing county.

Mayor Tourville discussed the regional significance of the Enerkem project and stated that other cities will benefit from this project as well. Mayor Tourville stated without help from the state this project won't happen. Ms. Nauman stated, the water resource policy plan is important. She stated the committee is looking at a municipal waste water tax on a case by case basis.

B. Adjourn

Councilmember Bartholomew made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Hark, and unanimously carried. The special meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.