

Joint City Council/Legislative Delegation Meeting
Friday, December 4, 2015, 7:30 a.m.
Bloomington Civic Plaza
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431-3027

Call to Order Mayor Gene Winstead called the joint meeting of the City Council and the Bloomington Legislative Delegation to order at 7:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Council Present: Councilmembers C. Abrams, J. Baloga, T. Busse, A. Carlson, D. Lowman, and J. Oleson

Legislators Present: Senators M. Franzen, M. Wiklund and Representatives A. Lenczewski and P. Rosenthal.

Staff Present: M. Anderson, A. Cheney, B. Clawson, L. Economy-Scholler, J. Forster, J. Gates, J. Hill, K. Keel, N. Kelley, D. Kirby, L. Lee, J. Lewis, J. Long, L. McCarthy, B. Paulsen, S. Pederson, R. Quale, J. Potts, K. Roberts, S. Rudlang, U. Seal, D. Smith, J. Verbrugge, J. Vogel

Introductions Mayor Winstead welcomed everyone and thanked the legislators for attending. He introduced new City Manager Jamie Verbrugge and requested everyone introduce themselves.

Mayor Winstead began by thanking the legislative delegation for the legislation they passed in 2011 and 2013 for the South Loop District (SLD), which has spurred another \$650 million in development. He talked about the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge (OCAB) project. He recognized Representative Lenczewski for all of her work in government that began on the City's Planning Commission, City Council and the Legislature. He said she's really made her mark on this community. She helped drive through the legislation that got part of the City's Police pension money back that helped build part of Civic Plaza. While she will be missed at the Legislature, Winstead said the Council looks forward to working with her in other ways.

Port Authority Administrator Schane Rudlang presented the following slides:

Legislation: 2011 & 2013 legislation funded Lindau Lane and affected the SLD.

Lindau Lane: \$49 million project reaped \$650 million in development. State investments helped City built out this area faster than anticipated.

OCAB: Key Bloomington landmark.

Mall of America (MOA) Phase 1C (North Pad)

MOA Phase 2B (next project)

Bloomington Central Station (BCS) Expansion with hotel opening in spring. Residential apartment complex opening in summer.

2016 Legislative Initiative Ideas: Want to close loophole in the online lodging sales tax

collection. East Bush Lake Road (EBLR) & 494 ramp – Appropriations request. MOA Transit Station: Key transportation infrastructure cost \$25 million.

Online Lodging Tax: Desire to close loophole in State statute to ensure Bloomington gets the proper taxes.

Public Works Director Karl Keel talked about the 35W & 494 Interchange reported to be the 17th worst interchange in nation. The Phase 1 cost is \$65 million. Orange line begins in 2017 with anticipated service beginning in 2019. Without funding for the interchange, part of the Orange Line will be constructed and then reconstructed with the interchange.

Keel said the westbound ramp to 494 at EBLR will cost \$23 million. He reported the City has received an approved layout design from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). There is, however, an \$8 million gap. Waiting for possible TED funding.

City Engineer Shelly Pederson presented the following slides:

MN River Valley Trail Connections:

Looking to bring regional visitors to and through Bloomington so amenities are needed. A, B, C, D areas on the map are trailheads for the regional trails. City needs wayfinding signage and amenities. City is asking for \$800,000 to start the signage. The Lyndale boat landing will be a major hub. There will be a bike/pedestrian bridge over the river with the reconstruction of the new bridge over 35W. The City is looking for assistance to tie this all together.

Mayor Winstead asked the legislators to talk about their expectations for the legislative session.

Rosenthal said it's going to be a very short session. Transportation will be at the forefront and the 35W/494 interchange is a big issue. He will fight for the bill Lenczewski carried last year. He fought for the bill on the westbound ramp onto 494. Senate bonding looked at MOA Transit Station. With help from the City, he believes it can get done before the Super Bowl. He said he'll work on the online sales tax. He's pleased to represent such a great community.

Franzen said the broader bills in the Legislature are the tax and transportation bills. She said Governor Dayton doesn't support a gas tax. The General Fund isn't a sustainable place to put transportation funding. She voted for the gas tax before because a sustainable funding source is needed but the transportation and tax bill will be held hostage together. She said more attention is being paid to Normandale Community and the MOA Transit Station. She authored the bill for the Bush Lake intersection. She would hate to see money wasted on the Orange Line. She asked about security issues at MOA Transit Station. She thanked City staff for testifying at the Capitol when needed.

Wiklund said it's good to meet with Council prior to the session. She'll continue to work on the online lodging tax. She was told it will be in the bill and she will follow up to be sure. They've had informational hearings on the 35/494 interchange and hope to have more discussion on those bills along with the MOA Transit Station especially because the price tag has come down. She said the transit tour was useful. She met with the US Fish & Wildlife Service regarding plans to continue the trail up to Ft. Snelling. She is happy to carry that request. She's excited to hear about the Bloomington's proposal and is interested in carrying the linkage to the river bottoms. She's on the Health and Human Services and Education and Early Childhood Committees.

Slocum said this is an informative and fun meeting. She hopes there is a tax bill. Her area is education. She said there will be quite a shakeup in the State regarding schools. We need strong schools. She's interested in the MOA Transit Station and 35W. She said there is a nice cushy surplus. She said she's in the minority over there, as she works with both sides of the aisle. She's hoping to see a large bonding bill so something can be accomplished with that cushion.

Lenczewski said the Council is doing what's right for the City and so is new City Manager Verbrugge. She commented the City of Bloomington has the best municipal staff. The City is so well positioned at this time. And, the right legislators are in place. She said the time is now for the City to get what it wants. Now is the time to fight for the bonding projects for the Mall, trails, etc., as there will be a real surplus. She said the City should be more present than ever. She encouraged Verbrugge to keep fighting for Bloomington, as this will be the biggest bonding bill in history. Bloomington should get everything on the list. She commented Bloomington's City Council is so functional. She stated she's confident with the person she'd like to see take her seat. She said Bloomington is well positioned to do good things.

Winstead commented the City Council has been working with the school district more than ever before. The City is working to improve the schools however Bloomington can.

Verbrugge amplified what Lenczewski said about the staff. He said Bloomington's Public Health and Human Services divisions are great and encouraged the legislators to use them as a resource.

Slocum gave the Council a courage award for organized collection. That was her bill. She commented trash collection is an environmental disaster and the Council was courageous against a very vocal anti-organized collection group.

Oleson commented the City is working to help neighborhoods and their shopping centers regenerate and reinvigorate. The City is looking at a curb appeal loan program.

Busse thanked the legislative delegation for being here and representing Bloomington and getting the work done. Regarding legislative priorities, he said long-term transportation requires long-term funding and encouraged the legislators to find another solution. He said let's fix transportation with the surplus. Let's not just do the first phase, let's do the whole thing. It's a regional improvement. Let's fight for it. Let's check them off.

Carlson said this is an approachable delegation and thanked them for listening to his ideas. He asked about a status update on the Joint Powers Agreement regarding the Minnesota Valley State Trail.

Verbrugge said the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will provide the Council with an update at the January 11th study meeting.

Abrams said this is a great opportunity for the City to achieve things it's been patient on. She said the City deserves a place at the table to ask for what is rightfully ours. She said the City should be bold in asking for what Bloomington needs.

Lowman told the legislators to call on him if needed and said everyone needs to pay attention to early childhood legislation.

Baloga said the Council is here to help the legislators do what they need to do. He said the City needs to get other Council's support on the regional projects in order to get them done. He told the legislators to let the Council know how it can help. He said this group has the best long-term interests of the community at heart and it's willing to take the risks to get the benefits for the community.

Winstead asked the legislators to see to it that something gets done on the body cam as opposed to nothing happening on it.

Police Chief Potts said there will be one significant public safety issue – body worn cameras. He said the Senate already has a bill that has passed. The question is how the data will be classified. The concern is when the officer has the camera on but it's not a criminal event, the data becomes public. The subject of the data always has access to the data. The City is looking to protect video data that is taken where there is a fairly well

established expectation of private data that it stays private data. He distributed some information on the major points regarding private data. He said the City is currently in the research mode.

Winstead said the City isn't jumping into it because of the loose tails and unanswered questions.

Regarding data requests, Carlson asked if the resources needed to bring that information forward can be shared. He said there are benefits to this practice beyond costs. Potts said there are other states that have gathered data he can share with the Council. Verbrugge said the City has been buried in data practices issues this year. He said he had a conversation with Gary Carlson over at the League of Minnesota Cities to get some language that adds a reasonable standard that says what's enough and it's a difficult conversation to have. It would be good to have some leeway in how those matters are handled. He asked the legislators to keep their ears to the ground if they hear about other cities.

Carlson said the unreasonableness factor is a good place to start. He said the City should have a say in this because it's expensive.

Lenczewski said it's not about not wanting the public to know what we're doing but if cities need to hire someone to handle it, it's an administrative issue. She encouraged the Council to have the DNR bring pictures when they meet with the Council about the trail. She said people aren't sure where the dual trail will be located so the DNR should bring pictures. She said ask them to present the two trails so you can visually see what happens at Lyndale, Bloomington Ferry Road, etc.

Winstead said the Council is in support of the DNR's two trails. It should keep moving forward.

Gates provided additional information about the Orange Line.

Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Winstead adjourned the special joint meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Barbara Clawson
Council Secretary