



**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023
7:00 PM
2ND FLOOR BOARD ROOM OF CITY HALL**

Mayor Louismet opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Councilmembers in attendance included: Bill Walsh, Heidi Hughes, Steven Engstran, and Dan Jones. Councilmember Edberg was excused. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Lindy Crawford, Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, City Attorney Troy Gilchrist, City Clerk Caley Longendyke, Captain Phil Henry, Public Works Director / City Engineer Paul Kauppi, and Horticulturist Sadie Loose.

1. LIQUOR ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

City Manager Crawford explained the differences between the City's liquor related ordinances, State Statutes and other area Cities. The City Manager's Office would like to propose the City's liquor related ordinances be combined into one ordinance with updated the language to conform to the State. As part of the discussion, staff summarized some of the issues surrounding liquor lounges within the city and establishments that are open until 2:00 AM. Staff will prepare a revised liquor ordinance for City Council consideration at a future meeting. Consideration by the City Council will follow the City's process for amending an ordinance which includes a public hearing at a future date.

2. THC ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

City Attorney Gilchrist summarized a working draft of a THC ordinance. Councilmembers discussed proposed legislation that the State of Minnesota is considering for THC regulation and the timing of the legislation. Staff will continue to research this issue, develop the draft ordinance and research scenarios regarding zoning districts and THC sales. Staff will also continue to track the legislation and update the City Council regarding the State's progress.

3. EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) / BOULEVARD TREE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Staff gave an overview of the general situation regarding emerald ash borer (EAB) in public areas, including boulevards, in the City. Since 2017, the City has been treating and removing ash trees. Despite these efforts, ash trees in the City have begun to decline rapidly on both public property and private property. Staff presented options for managing the removal and replacement of ash trees over the next several years. Further discussion about funding for EAB management will take place when the City Council reviews its Capital Improvement Plan. Staff will draft an amended ordinance for the management of boulevard trees for future council consideration work to develop a tree replacement program.

Meeting adjourned 10:12 PM