

Falcon Heights Council Workshop Minutes
April 7, 2010

Members present: Mayor Lindstrom, Council members Long, Harris Mercer-Taylor, and Gosline

Others present: Administrator Justin Miller; Finance Director Roland Olson

Sanitary Sewer Fee Structure

Miller and Olson presented their data on how a consumption based sanitary sewer billing system could be structured. Pros and cons of various models were discussed, as was the impact of the University of Minnesota and the State Fair on the city's sewer rates. The council asked questions of how using different quarterly usage would impact the rates, as well as how the flat fee was generated. The council agreed that a model based upon using the winter usage would be preferable, since that would only charge residents for water actually being sent through the sanitary sewer system, as opposed to being used for watering lawns, gardens, etc. Staff indicated that more detailed information would come to the council during budget workshops.

2011 Equipment Certificate Process

Miller explained the rationale behind bonding for equipment needs, as that is one way to use special levy authority provided by state statutes. The term of the bonds could be spread across a variety of years, but in general no longer than the expected life of the equipment. Council expressed concern about recent unallotments of LGA and how that might impact the city's tax rate in coming years. Staff agreed to bring additional options to the council at the next council meeting for their consideration.

2011 City Council Budget Goals Discussion

The council went through last year's goals and determined what could be removed as well as adding new items for the upcoming year. The council also asked that staff develop a tracking mechanism that would monitor the status of each goal so that the council and public could keep apprised of their status. The goals would be brought back before the council at the next meeting for formal adoption.

The workshop concluded at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Miller
City Administrator