

Jt. Council/Legislative Delegation Meeting #8
Wednesday, March 7, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Bloomington Civic Plaza
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431-3027

Call to Order

Mayor Gene Winstead called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Members: Mayor Winstead, Councilmembers R. Axtell, S. Elkins, K. Nordstrom, and S. Peterson
(Absent: A. Grady & V. Wilcox)

Legislators: Senators Geoff Michel and Dan Larson
Representatives Ann Lenczewski and Neil Peterson
(Absent: Rep. Slocum & Senator Doll)

City Staff: Mark Bernhardson, Dave Ornstein, Larry Lee, John Laux, Ulie Seal, Charlie Honchell, Amy Cheney, Diann Kirby, Jack Pasternacki, Regina Harris, Jill Hutmacher, Kent Michaelson, Lori Economy-Scholler.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Winstead welcomed everyone to the joint Council/Legislative Delegation meeting and at his request, everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Staff provided the following updates.

TRANSPORTATION

Charlie Honchell, Public Works Director, announced his retirement at the end of April and proceeded to update the delegation on Bloomington's transportation situation. He stated the City desperately needs more funding for transportation and that it concurs with the resolutions that have been put forth by the LMC and AMM on this issue. The City has special transportation needs and a street utility would be one option. Bloomington is having a hard time meeting its own street needs and the cost to construct MnDOT projects is going up by 7.4% (an average increase of 6.5% over the last 10 years), which is more than what is collected from the gas tax, etc. He provided an update on the following items:

- **Lyndale Bridge 2008/2009:** Currently in final review at the federal level. Plans are to close the bridge after New Year's Eve 2008 and have it open again before Thanksgiving 2009.
- **169/494:** Municipal Consent has been granted by Edina and Eden Prairie. Bloomington to consider the issue on March 19. If the Governor's bonding bill passes, MnDOT would do a design/build project starting in 2009.
- **494/35W:** No funding has been identified for this project. However, MnDOT, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) and the City of Bloomington are participating in a 494 corridor study that will study traffic on 494 from Penn Avenue to the river. The study is proposed to be completed this year.
- **494/Hwy. 100:** It's waiting in the cue for the rest of the 494 work. The westbound 494 entrance ramp from East Bush Lake Road will occur when 494/100 projects gets built.
- **Transit:** Bids came in \$4 million under estimates for the 28th Avenue Light Rail Transit (LRT) Park & Ride for expansion of a parking deck. City and Met Transit are working on the final stages of an agreement.
- **Light Rail Transit (LRT):** Southwest corridor is looking at three routes.
- **Buses:** Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) rather than LRT is being proposed for the Cedar Avenue corridor.
- **35W:** Still in the stages of getting its Bus Rapid Transit rolling.
- **Photocop:** Bloomington supports it, as traffic is the number one issue according to our residents, but we'll have to wait and see what the courts decide. Bloomington believes it's a valid concept, as it should reduce the number of traffic intersection crashes.

**TRANSPORTATION
Continued**Questions/Comments:

Sen. Michel inquired if Photocop is a big deal.

Police Chief John Laux replied traffic is the one issue for Bloomington residents so it can be a big deal. The Police Department gets calls everyday about speeders and red light runners so it would be a good tool to have. Minneapolis has seen a dramatic reduction in the number of intersection crashes as a result of Photo Cop. He stated law enforcement officials are testifying in support of it.

City Attorney Dave Ornstein reported the issue is before the State Supreme Court right now but he would be surprised if they upheld the ordinance, as there have been some problems with the Minneapolis ordinance.

Peterson commented there will likely be a significant cost related to the development forecasts in the 84th Street & Normandale quadrant.

Winstead commented the opportunity for increased development worsens with the issues of the existing intersection and it will take significant dollars to improve that intersection. He stated the City is looking 20 years out to facilitate the development and is looking at the County for help.

Axtell stated the northeast corner of I-494/Hwy. 100 in Edina is ripe for redevelopment and the Pentagon Office Park buildings are coming down this spring to be replaced with condo buildings but the issue is dollars.

Elkins mentioned the bill Sen. Larson and Rep. Lenczewski initiated for a transit study on the I-494 corridor.

Community Development Director Larry Lee provided an overview of the Normandale Lake Area, which he stated is probably the premier suburban office park in the area. He stated five large buildings already exist, one is under construction, and a plan for a United Properties' building is currently going through the process. He stated there is the potential for four more buildings of that size in that area. He stated the Normandale study started a year ago and reported no resident showed up to speak against the United Properties proposal during last Monday's Council meeting. He reported all the constituencies have been involved and the study speaks to a final development and addresses all of the stakeholders.

AIRPORT

Dave Ornstein provided an update on the various lawsuits that have been filed in other cities affected by noise related to the opening of the new runway at MSP Airport as well as the lawsuits that have been filed by Interstate Diesel in Bloomington.

Larry Lee reviewed the Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC's) current noise contour map and reported their consultant is redoing the contours and that based on their preliminary results, the areas that used to be in the 65 decibel contour are now in the 60 decibel contour. He mentioned MAC's high percentage of flights that have been adhering to the 2.5 nautical mile turnpoint and stated Bloomington appreciates their cooperation with us on that issue.

Questions/Comments:

Peterson stated the airport noise in Bloomington would have been worse had it not been for the turnpoint requirement and that the cities south of the Minnesota River were surprised at the new airplane noise.

**COMMUNITY
RENEWAL**

Larry Lee provided a progress report on the development in Phase II of the Bloomington Central Station (BCS) Project, The Park at BCS, development in the Normandale Lake Area, at France & Old Shakopee Road, and in Airport South.

Regina Harris, Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Administrator commented on the issue of eminent domain and the Livable Communities funding that has been beneficial to Bloomington in the area of affordable housing.

**COMMUNITY
RENEWAL
continued**

Questions/Comments:

Sen. Michel inquired as to what will happen to the Company to Classrooms business in the Bloomdale Shopping Center.

Lee replied staff has talked with owner Cary Weatherby about some relocation opportunities and reported she is currently on a month-to-month lease.

Rep. Lenczewski inquired about the use of eminent domain on the southwest corner of the France & Old Shakopee Road.

Harris replied it didn't get in.

Rep. Lenczewski stated she is opposed to the Livable Communities bill, as one of the pots of money being levied is from Fiscal Disparities and one isn't. She stated Bloomington needs to be careful so it doesn't get hit twice.

MALL OF AMERICA

Bernhardson provided an update regarding the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District relating to Phase I and Phase II of the Mall of America and the City Council's and Port Authority's positions on the request for a TIF extension relating to Phase II.

Questions/Comments:

Rep. Lenczewski mentioned she met with Mark Bernhardson and Mayor Winstead in an effort to try and better understand the Mall issue and encouraged all of Bloomington's legislators to do the same thing, as it is a very complicated situation.

SMOKING BAN

There appears to be legislative consensus that a bill could pass this session.

**STATE/LOCAL
RELATIONSHIP**

Lori Economy-Scholler, Chief Financial Officer discussed levy limits and the City's request that the legislators support having no levy limits. She also commented on Market Value Credit (MVC) and Fiscal Disparities.

There was discussion regarding cable television services in Bloomington and Qwest's efforts in this area.

Questions/Comments:

Rep. Lenczewski inquired if the MLC cities would support getting rid of Market Value Credit so those dollars could be used for circuit breaker monies.

Winstead and Bernhardson indicated they would support it but the issue is the timing and that the City could better prepare for it if it knows in advance. They stated if it was in a circuit breaker, it would help Bloomington's lower valued homes where they're getting no help now. Local Government Aid (LGA) helps the millionaires who reside in a poor town.

Rep. Lenczewski inquired as to why Bloomington doesn't have certain cable channels.

Bernhardson replied it has to do with price and cable channels. He stated Bloomington lost two channels, as Comcast couldn't come to an agreement with the channel providers adding the City can't regulate the price or the channels.

Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Winstead adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Barbara Clawson
Council Secretary