
MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor Walker and Councilors
FROM: M McPherson, City Administrator
SUBJECT: **Bi-Weekly Administrator's Report**
DATE: March 21, 2023

I have the following observations and information to share from the last update:

Airport

The Joint Planning Board was unable to conduct the scheduled public hearing regarding the amendment to the Airport Ordinance due to the lack of a quorum. The meeting will be rescheduled and affected parties will be re-noticed. This delay actually works in our favor as MNDOT was able to review the changes and provide two additional changes that need to be made due to outdated language.

There is a vacancy on the Airport Advisory Board, so any assistance in recruitment would be fantastic.

Development

In the past two weeks, staff has met with Eldon Johnson and Rick Schwartz on their potential development projects.

We expect to see concept plans for Charlie Bravo and the next phase of the Briggs project very soon.

Finance

Staff is starting to compile the needed information for the 2022 audit. Abdo will be pulling trial balances this week and Smith-Schafer has scheduled field work for the week of April 24th,

Infrastructure

Advertisement for bids for the Business Park infrastructure have been sent to the local paper and the relevant professional publications. I have been working with George Eilertson of Northland Securities on a plan to finance the improvements.

The draft feasibility study for 7th Avenue/CSAH 4 has been sent to the Mille Lacs County Engineer for review and comment.

Personnel

Work continues on the Personnel Manual. The work is progressing nicely.

The opening for a Police Officer closes March 24 at 3:00 pm.

Legislative Monitoring

I am monitoring, with help from CGMC and LMC various legislative topics. Of interest:

- *Bill to Address Public Safety PTSD (House File 1234, Senate File 1959)*; requires treatment for a mental injury prior to filing for a duty disability, keeps employees on payroll while receiving treatment, financial support to backfill positions, fully reimburses employers for health insurance provide the employer has implemented mental health injury prevention measures, requires preservice training to prepare staff for stressful events and to teach coping mechanisms. This bill passed out of three House committees on March 9, 14 and 16 respectively. The next stop is the House Ways and Means Committee. It was to be heard in a Senate committee on March 20. It will also need to be heard in the Joint House and Senate Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement which vets all bills that impact public pension benefits and plans.
- *Earned Sick and Safe Time (House File 19, Senate File 34)*; requires employers to provide on hour of paid sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked. This covers all employees including part-time and seasonal, working 80 hours in a year for the employer. The bill was passed in the House on February 16. In the Senate it was passed out of the Human Services Committee and re-referred to the Finance Committee
- *Creation of Street Improvement Districts (House File 1183, Senate File 1627)*; allows cities to create street improvement districts for the purpose of construction and reconstruction of streets and related components (minus underground utilities). Cities would be allowed to impose a street improvement fee after providing public notice and holding a public hearing. This bill was pulled from receiving a hearing in committee. Multiple organizations have signed on to oppose this bill. It is unlikely to be resurrected this session.
- *Competing Bonding Bills*; two bills have been unveiled, a General Obligation bonding bill totaling \$1.5 billion and a "cash only" bill of \$392 million. The House passed the bonding bill, but the Senate has not.
- *Local Government Aid Increase (House File 1377, Senate File 1828)*; increases the appropriation for local government aid and modifies the calculation for distribution. The House referred it to the Taxes Committee and the Chair referred it to the Property Tax Division. The Senate has referred it to the Taxes Committee. There has been no additional action since the February 21 update.
- *Indigenous Peoples Day (House File 211, Senate File 104)*; eliminates and replaces Columbus Day, requires observance where no public business could be conducted on the second Monday in October. If passed, it would become effective for 2023. There has been no further action on the bill since the last update.

If you receive the CGMC Brief, there is a list of other "bills to watch" listed in the February 16 edition.

Upcoming Meeting/Event Reminders

- March 28 – 1-2 pm, Ribbon Cutting, Crystal Family Care Clinic; 12513 318th Avenue.
- March 30 – 10 am, Ribbon Cutting, Minnco Credit Union; 1912 5th Street North