

City of St. Anthony
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Minutes

December 14, 2021

Present:

Mayor & Council

Randy Stille, Mayor, Thomas Randle, Councilmember, Wendy Webster, Councilmember and Jan Jenson, Councilmember, Bernard Walker, Councilmember

Staff:

Charlie Yunker, City Manager, Nicole Miller, Assistant to the City Manager

Call to Order:

Mayor Stille called the Work Session to order at 5:45 p.m.

Community Survey:

Nicole Miller reviewed the information received to date on conducting a community survey utilized Polco including pricing. One option is to compile a customized survey and focus on service delivery, or to utilize the standard National Community Survey that will allow the city to benchmark with comparable cities. A small set of additional questions can be added for an additional cost.

The Council asked questions regarding how benchmarking would work, and the ability to customize the National Community Survey if desired. Staff will investigate the customization of the National Community Survey, however the options will be limit in order to be able to benchmark in the future. Council discussed the need to ensure the survey is conducted properly, and staff reiterated that Polco does approach conducting the survey in a manner to ensure it is statistically sound.

Staff also drafted a policy as requested by the Council to guide the use of a community survey. Nicole reached out to other cities and the policy was drafted largely based on their input. However, no other cities have a comparable usage policy in place. Mayor Stille discussed that purpose of the policy is to ensure that the Council maintains its governance role and use the survey as a tool to help inform decisions.

Council also discussed the benefits of conducting a survey and having the information available to inform decisions. Council concurred on conducting the National Community Survey with Polco and allowing staff to add some additional questions.

Staff will revise the proposed policy from Council feedback, and arrange for Polco representative to be made available to describe the process and answer any additional Council questions.

Watertower Design Concepts:

Nicole Miller reviewed the concepts created by WSB for Council to offer feedback on which designs to offer to the public for their preference. The Council preferred two designs, each one color with both city logos, as long as the additional logo doesn't add significant extra cost.

Selection of Official Newspaper:

Nicole Miller discussed a proposal to change the city's official newspaper from the StarTribune to Finance & Commerce in order to reduce costs to comply with statutory requirements, while also supplementing community notification with a push notification group resident can sign-up for.

Council would like more information on costs and subscription rates on the two newspapers before making any changes. Staff will research and provide the information for further discussion.

Commission Chairs for 2022:

Council discussed the recommendations for the Parks and Environmental Commission and Planning Commission Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2022 and selected names for the resolutions to be approved at the subsequent regular City Council meeting.

Future Work Sessions:

Next Work Session will be held on February 8th, at 5:45pm in the Council Chambers.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Charlie Yunker, City Manager.