

BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, February 6, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Park City Hall
Room A203
5200 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Hollies Winston

PRESENT: Mayor Hollies Winston; Council Members Boyd Morson, Maria Tran, Xp Lee, Nichole Klonowski, Manager Jay Stroebel; Finance Director LaTonia Green; Community Development Director Kim Berggren; Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz; Deputy Police Chief Bill Barritt; Community Engagement Manager Josie Shardlow; and City Clerk Devin Montero

ABSENT: Council Member Christian Eriksen (excused)

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS/GENERAL ACTION ITEMS:

C.1 Sister City Agreements Discussion – Udu, Nigeria

Community Engagement Manager Shardlow briefed the Council on the process, criteria, background, objectives, sister city structure, staff time and resources for a sister city relationship with the city.

She introduced Chief Ray Memene, board chair of RGD and Chief Godfrey Edaferierhi, Treasurer, representatives from the Sister City Committee members, Reconnecting the Great Diaspora organization and they briefed the council on about RGD organization, Udu local government area, Trade and Commerce, 5 Star Hotels, Tourism and Cultural exchange programs, Capacity building, their proposal for a sister city with Udu, Nigeria.

Comments by Council Members:

- Are the people and businesses on board if approved.
- DNA testing and 25% to be eligible for dual citizenship
- Types of hotels in Udu, Nigeria
- Population of Udu, Nigeria
- Tourism numbers Udu, Nigeria
- If a monument or physical landmark be placed in Udu, to show the significance of sister city with Brooklyn Park, when people go there and see Brooklyn Park is part of that country and had some stake and presence there
- Rubber tree production compared to Liberia's production
- What would be your top concern or issue you like to work with Brooklyn Park on, solar power, economics. If you had to choose one to start off what would it be. Representative answered with water resources and sanitation.
- When doing sister cities related to the criteria do we check on human rights or political rights violations. Nigeria has some civil right issues related to girls and women. Representative answered in northeast Nigeria with new tribes, their focus was on Udu, which was peaceful. Becoming a sister city will have impact on that where people will be engaged

- On our African American youth, is there anything you can do to help educate them around the different cultures from the RGD
- If Udu a sister city, is there an opportunity for Kakata other youth cohorts to go there over the summer, with supervision to see the different cultures and understanding.
- If RGD takes the lead, it could be the hub and have connections in Africa and staff

Mayor Winston thanked the representatives from RGD and presentation.

C.2 METRO Blue Line Extension Update

Community Development Director Berggren briefed the council and stated there were two presentations, one from Metropolitan Council Member Reva Chambliss Blue Line staff about the train.

Metropolitan Council Member Chambliss briefed the council on: Her representation to District 2, Metropolitan Council Impact, Long-range planning, Partnering on a shared vision, Community development, Regional Parks, Environmental Services, Regional Transit, Metro Transit, Regional Transit Network, Connecting people and destinations, \$2 plus billion in Permitted and Planned Community Development, Development and Transit equals success, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, Green Line Extension equals statewide jobs, Blue Line LRT Extension, and Transit Safety.

Comments from the Council Members.

- I got many complaints from residents in fear of riding the bus between 5:00 and 5:30 a.m. The ladies felt uncomfortable at the park and rides. Brought to the attention of the police chief and sent officers to patrol that area in morning. Have concerns about increasing the ridership from Brooklyn Park to destinations and protecting residents.
- Also talking about 3 to 5 p.m. in the afternoon where more youth at the park and ride, and have drug transactions, sleeping in the stairwells, the cameras don't work there in the structure.
- The maintenance and exterior of the park and ride is not maintained and not does not look like what was presented to the council and not kept up in the summer
- Car donuts are done in the parking lot at the park and rides. If the cameras are working, we should identify them, because we see the donut tracks there
- Some residents expressed their concern about light rail coming and fear of safety. Is there data supporting that people coming from downtown are coming here to cause problems.
- Are there resources or a place to send them to look at, would be helpful to point them in positive direction to help them address their concerns
- On the public safety, however we can be armed with statistics and come up with resources to address it. On the transit police, where does that line separate on what we do for city and the sheriff's department with interactions and responsibilities we have as city. Are there resources available for that to help coordinate it and helps us when we go out and speak to residents on the various responsibilities we have going forward and dealing with issues. The more facts we have the better to address that and getting that information to staff for future conversations because it constantly comes up.
- Is there some type of information on who the transit police are, what the resources are, how the sheriff gets involved with the youth, who are collecting around the hubs, the

resources to deploy and how they are connected with the different lines and working with transit to help us better understand it.

- Can you draw comparisons with the Blue Line to the University Ave sections on Snelling Ave from the Capitol. There was a lot of diverse small businesses and middle of the road planning in that process and a lot of community members were involved and the anti-displacement group having conversations. The more we can have our community members participate and feel they have ownership; they will connect with project. If we can get more data on that growth happening because that community was resilient and growing after the property pricing and movements, the small businesses had survived. Those examples can apply to Brooklyn Park on what to see. How many businesses were already established in that area.
- BLRT will not break ground until 2025, two years away and the first rider won't ride until 2029. The investment will far exceed \$1.5 billion yet our residents can't get from west, central and east without transportation. I am more concerned to get them accessible to jobs now than 2029 at cost of \$2 to \$3 billion for businesses that are not here. The bus transportation can be here now to travel about our city. It is important to me and the residents.

Mayor Winston thanked Council Member Chambliss for her presentation.

Community Development Director Berggren introduced Chris Beckwith, Blue Line Extension Project Director, Nick Landwer, Director of Engineering and Design, and Dan Soler, Director of Transit and Mobility, Hennepin County.

Director Beckwith briefed the council on: Blue Line LRT Extension, Project Schedule, Blue Line Extension Project Goals, 2023 Work Plan, Risk Management at Met Council, Stay Connected, and Next Steps

Director Landwer briefed on: Project Design Principles, North of 610, West Broadway Avenue BP Segment, 85th Ave Station 90% plan, 85th Ave Site Plan, 85th Ave Station, Brooklyn Park Transition from West Broadway to CR 81, County Road 81 Southern Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Park Pedestrian Crossing at 63rd Avenue Stations, Review Designs Decisions Document for Brooklyn Park, and Feedback from Jan 30 Open House.

Director Soler briefed the council on: Hennepin County Community Work, Completed Work, Current Focus Areas.

Comments by the Council Members:

- On the east to west transportation and the city has reached out in the past and keeps coming up as an issue. Is there justification why it is not happening yet. If the blue line is built that increases the odds for east/west transportation with buses.
- What can be done to get the east/west transportation, so we do not continue to spin our wheels, I want to hear a solution. What is standing in the way. What should we be doing as city to address that formula.
- They tested one option and it did not rise to the level of ridership they expected and the other things didn't rise to level of priority based on a formula that was in place. Is that formula something standard or is that something to discuss. We do hear about the east/west and trying to get my arms around what the situation is. It should not be tied to the discussion of light rail. Maybe we should be considering other options being

discussed. I want to see the feasibility if talking about changing the formula what that looks like and who determines that formula. That is something we have to nail down sooner than later.

- At a meeting with Met council and I was told if we do not do the light rail will not get the bus transit. Your presentation does not talk about buses at those stations and does not mention a bus to take them to their home from that point. We still don't have a solution to transport them from the light rail to their home and stuck on getting transportation throughout the city.
- I know the city has reached on what the city can do about the east/west routes on transit. Would like to find out what we heard and what the roadblocks are; and some of the solutions are standing in the way; and what specifically we should be doing as a city, whether addressing the formula or other things. We need to work with Council Member Chambliss on the formula and network now and need to be involved now to make sure we are getting the proper transit we want.
- You're saying we need to work with Council Member Chambliss on the formula and the Network Now is something we need to be involved now to make sure we are getting the proper transit we want.
- In 252 meetings, those planners told me it would be more likely once 252 and the blue line were done. I looked at the bus lines and they start from the hub in Brooklyn Center and spokes out through the northern part of Brooklyn Park. When looking at bus access and pedestrian flow you're looking 2 to 3 miles out and almost gets us to other side of 252. On the two mainlines in east district, one bus runs up to 252 to the park and ride at Noble but the line that turns off onto west river road and follows West River Road all the way up, Brookdale Drive and 85th will be two major intersections where we need to try to connect those over to Broadway and blue line. I would like to see a lot of focus on 85th as a beltway. People can go up and down 85th and Brookdale Dr is another big corridor where there is a lot of residential properties. I want to see that taken into consideration when talking about east/west bus access because those are big stops at west river road and up to 85th Ave and people north can take those buses down and find buses that go across.
- We were on the hook for \$8.18 million in the previous budget, what might that look like in future?
- Do you have statistics on businesses in those light rail areas up or down? Has their business grown or declined since the transportation was there. It would be advantageous to let us know there is proof that it does increase business visibility and or accessibility. I know if they want to ride to that area and that business has what somebody is looking for is going to require them to go there. I would like to see some details of the pluses or negatives about businesses in those areas of the light rail if business went up in income or down.

Community Development Director Berggren and Planning Director Paul Mogush briefed on: Metro Blue Line Beyond the rails, LRT Brooklyn Park, Five stations in Brooklyn park, 63rd Ave Station, Brooklyn Blvd Station 85th Avenue Station, 93rd Ave Station, Corridor Is More Racially Ethnically Diverse than the region, Growth in Suburban Poverty, 2023 Design Considerations.

Comments by the Council Members:

- Is that going to affect the fire house? I love the public art ideas. Let' try to also seek to do it with the station art designs or information coming out of the project.
- It would be cool to see the connections between the stations and the street scapes.

- We talked about the ADA codes but we also have the age friendly information as well as the universal design principles, so let's try to meld everything together as much as possible to make sure people can go from the house to the sidewalks to the train and back as easily as possible.
- Oak grove and Brooklyn Boulevard, those are close to trails. Oak Grove has Rush Creek, north of it and Brooklyn Boulevard, Shingle Creek just north of it. I would like to see a buildout of the connection a little bit more to see how that would work.
- On 93rd Avenue right now I think from Highway 81 to Zane Avenue is 45 mph and from Zane Avenue to West Broadway is 45 mph and West Broadway to Zane is 50 mph. The speed limit is a concern in terms of once we get it going. How do we make it safer at the 93rd Avenue intersection because 93rd Avenue is high plus we have the Ebineezer Church there too and they could take advantage of the access there.

8:48 p.m. Mayor Winston called for a recess.

At 9 p.m. Mayor Winston reconvened the meeting.

C.3 Water Discussion

Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz briefed the council on: Existing Water Supply and Treatment, Key Metrics For Essential Services, Ground Water Quality, Key Metrics for Essential Services Water Quality Rating, Treatment Options, Iron and Manganese Filtration, Purchase from Joint Water Commission, Purchase water from Minneapolis, Modify Current Water Plant, Regionalized Softening Plant, and Resident Survey.

Council Member Morson stated he was looking at the \$63 million to build 4 miles of pipe from the river to the city and \$80 million for 8 miles from Minneapolis to the city and \$6 million annual operating costs after they utilize that. He asked what the operating cost would be if they were 8 miles from Minneapolis.

O&M Director Ruiz stated it would be the \$6 million minimum because surface water had contaminants and took more treatment but that was if they were to treat it. He stated Minneapolis did all that treatment already and the operating cost would be part of that.

Utilities Manager/Superintendent Luckow stated it would be the \$6 million in operating cost if the city did the water softening with the existing plant and converting it with the wells. He stated if they made the Minneapolis connection, the \$6 million costs would be incurred to when they paid them per thousand gallons and would not be an additional \$6 million they would be paying the staff and buying chemicals. He stated the city would be paying the wholesale costs to Minneapolis and Minneapolis would be doing the treatment. He stated the way it would work, they had a large ring around the city the city would tap into and from there on, the city owned the pipe but Minneapolis would be doing all treatment and getting finished water or near finished water. He stated the city might have to add a little chlorine but would not incur treatment costs.

O&M Director Ruiz stated that on the joint water commission rates they were paying for Minneapolis water, the city would pay something similar to that and was almost 3 times the costs of what the city's residents were currently paying now for the system.

He stated they met with representatives from Brooklyn Center, Champlin, Maple Grove and Plymouth and had a water discussion meeting, what they were seeing and what they were doing, growth and any other issues. He stated the city of Plymouth did a water softening study

in 2018, they had two water treatment plants, and their estimated cost were 40 million for each water treatment plant to add softening. He stated the council decided it was too expensive and did not take it any further at that time. He stated the city of Maple Grove was undergoing a preliminary study and the city shared their study with them and would be presenting to their council in February. He stated the rough estimate to add water softening to Maple Grove was \$120 million compared to Brooklyn Park at \$47 million because they had to build a separate building, didn't have the room, the existing water treatment plant was not set up to absorb the water softening. He stated the city of Brooklyn Park had already made some investments to try and make that connection and bring down future capital costs.

He stated Brooklyn Center just put in a water treatment plant a few years ago and looked at the Minneapolis scenario but decided to go on their own and don't see their interest in partnering because they made that investment. He stated it was for water treatment only and not water softening.

O&M Director Ruiz stated the city of Champlin's water not as hard was in the 18-22 grains of hardness range and pleased with their water. He stated Brooklyn Park was at 35. He stated Champlin had reached capacity and might need to add a well or two and their system was adequate and pulled from different aquifers. He stated their well field was in different aquifer, tunnel city aquifer, from 400 to 430 feet deep. He stated Brooklyn Park was in the shallow drift aquifer, 260-270 feet deep and were clay confining layers between those that separated the water quality in different aquifers. He stated the city was in a great highly productive glacial drift, old tributary of melted water from glaciers, an tributary to the Mississippi river and had higher production wells but lower water quality.

Council Member Lee ask if adding a tower and more wells in the northwest area, would they have that option to drill into that deeper aquifer.

O&M Director Ruiz stated they had one well site but also in the same shallow drift aquifer with the same water quality. He stated it was running from the northwest to the southeast and when we go to the northwest, they were still hitting the same aquifer, where Champlin was further north and gets them into the other aquifer. He stated they did look at adding wells in the better well field but they were very low in production compared to the drift aquifer, they were hitting.

Utilities Manager/Superintendent Luckow stated that on the previous slide, they saw 2 to 5 wells because it depended where they chose to drill the well. He stated the wells they had in the glacial drift aquifer were very productive. He stated the test pump, they did with some test holes in northwest area, stated a drift well could get 2500 gallons a minute and a pump there expected get 600 gallons a minute and that was where they needed more to get the same production; and is a longer way to pipe that brown water to the treatment plant.

Council Member Klonowski stated residents were not willing to pay in the same survey and said the water was still an issue. She thought they needed to look at more options and asked what a regional plan would consist of. The cities he was talking to were multi-county and the options for sharing the expenditures and what that would look like.

O&M Director Ruiz stated given direction from the council tonight they could take a closer look at and particularly with Maple Grove to establish another joint water commission or northwest water commission. He stated he didn't know if the city would be the main purveyor or would do a joint powers agreement; to share in the infrastructure costs to get the water from the river or do a larger treatment. He stated Maple Grove was with meeting with their council this month

and staff would take what was discussed with the council tonight and reach out to the other cities to see if there was interest and also see what the Maple Grove council had said.

City Manager Stroebel stated the other element was the PFAS, if the forever chemicals were found in our groundwater and there were some in there, and the level of acceptance, of the health standard. If we eventually have to treat that then that's additional costs. If they were to get water from the river, they would be better protected from the PFAS, and protected from the uncertainty of the hardness of getting the water from the ground. He asked if there was more certainty from the raw water from the river versus getting out of the ground in terms of PFAS, and other things they had to treat.

O&M Director Ruiz stated there could be many potential additional contaminates in the river. There could be a petroleum spill, industrial spill int St. Cloud that got into the river and came down.

Utilities Manager/Superintendent Luckow stated there also could be a drought and if they were looking at the river, they would have to do a risk assessment analysis of what was being brought up because there was a lot of protection with groundwater as it was 400 feet deep. He stated the DNR had well head protection programs to protect the aquifers and the contaminants like PFAS, known for years it was coming and was simple to treat.

O&M Director Ruiz stated that on PFAS, there was existing technology that was inexpensive and still talking about millions to invest in granularly activated carbon system but was one more filtration system that could be added on easily to address the PFAS but at a cost. He stated they would know more later this year if and when the Department of Health sets those standards and whether the city met it or not and do additional treatments.

Council Member Morson stated if the city used Minneapolis and was not in favor it, if their prices increased, it would increase the city's and would be passed onto the residents instantaneously regardless whether the city wanted it or not.

O&M Director Ruiz stated that for average family of 4 using 80,000 gallons a year; and part of the rate study a couple of years ago, it was \$17.52 a month. He estimated it at \$19 per month this year and quarterly would be 3 times that amount. He stated the residents from the Joint Waters Commission to get softened water paid 3 times what Brooklyn Park was paying.

Council Member Morson stated Maple Grove was \$127 million for building their system and Brooklyn Park was at \$47 million and was an \$80 million difference. He asked what they were doing for the \$80 million more.

O&M Director Ruiz stated the biggest difference in costs was that they had to build a completely separate structure, in a different location; do it all independently and then pipe it over to their existing water treatment plant. He stated they didn't have a consulting engineer do the study and had their own engineer come up with the study. He stated they would give the council an estimate and council would say yes to study it in-depth and come up with a better number or not. He stated Maple Grove did not build their water treatment plant with the ability to be modularly adding that water softening system. He stated they had to add more clarifiers and other expensive equipment. He stated Brooklyn Park already paid for the equipment and was now going up 200 to 300 percent to when Brooklyn Park first put it in.

Council Member Lee stated the city was at 30% in terms of hardness and asked if the city went on its own, added the softener, where would that put the city. He asked about the rate of hardness if it had been steady or exponential.

O&M Director Ruiz stated it would bring it down to 6 grains of hardness. He stated some people like at Eden Prairie softened their water, but some residents decided to soften it additionally. He stated it was a cost benefit analysis and a personal preference. He stated Minneapolis and St. Paul set the standards on the softness of water. He stated the city was at 17 grains of hardness in 1990 and had doubled since then.

Utilities Manager/Superintendent Luckow stated it had gone up .6 to .7 grains per gallon year. He stated every well had its own signature even in the same aquifer. He stated that depending where the aquifers were, not all were the same. He stated the average on the drift aquifer, which was the main water supply was about 35 grains per gallon.

Council Member Lee asked if they could apply the same extrapolation of the rate now, did all that and drop it to down to 7 and in another 15 years it would probably double again.

O&M Director Ruiz stated if they continued to study it, they would want to look at what the maximum hardness was they could anticipate at least in 50 years. He stated there was a lot infrastructure they wanted to do to last 50 years at that same rate of hardness.

Council Member Klonowski asked what the impact was on hardness on human beings and at what level. She stated the water had destroyed her faucets, hair and impacted everyone's skin in her household. She stated as the water continued to harden it was a cost to do inaction as well for the people that lived in the city.

Utilities Manager/Superintendent Luckow stated it was one of the big issues the city had and a possible education outreach. He stated if the water softener was set too high, a lot of that described could be caused by setting it too high and corroding the pipes. He stated they often saw it when going on service calls, people having them set too high corroding the faucets, dishwasher, and the skin because it was too high. He stated staff helped a lot of people set it correctly. He stated the water was very hard, made the hair stiff, impacted the skin but should not corrode faucets. He stated if the softener was set wrong and set high it became corrosive.

Council Member Klonowski suggested putting the information on the city's website for residents to have regarding the testing of water softeners. She asked if she could get the answers to her questions asked previously, i.e., what impact the hard water had.

Council Member Lee stated if they were looking at costs, he was interested in seeing that 50 year projection. Where the city was going now if it didn't do anything, it might hit the maximum hardness level and if it kept going up compared to if the city went with its own softening. He stated he also wanted to know what the benefits were, not just at the operations level and thought they needed to get a handle on the residents. What they were dealing with and how much they were spending annually if the council needed to make decisions to invest in softening and could better argue that dollar amount. He stated he didn't have enough context in terms of what residents were spending and what were the personal costs to them in that dollar amount, i.e., \$60 per month. He stated he would like to see more extrapolations on cause and benefits on not doing anything and maybe doing one of the options and also the resident cost benefit of each one.

He asked about how they could mitigate water usage, lawn watering, was a big use. He asked if the council was interesting in modifying those policies and the Homeowners Association had their own thing. He stated right now they did not have alternatives and thought there was an alternative to help with it. On rain collection, he asked if they had studied how much rain water they could gather and create a system for rain capture that could help supplement a little bit. He stated he was interested in hearing those mitigating ideas to bring the hardness down outside of drilling and using the river.

Mayor Winston stated the water issue had been on the city's desk for a very long time and the more they asked to consider the different scenarios, the council would have changed and the next council would be discussing it all over again. He thought they could consider mitigating factors but some of the facts were in front of the council. He stated they could go back and do another study about the resident's will and if putting a study in front of the people, and ask how much they were willing to pay, they would say it seemed like a lot. He stated then go ask them, which ones were their top 5 top issues and #4 was water. He stated the city would have to work with the community, educate them and what model made sense and give them that model and how to mitigate the costs for that model.

He stated he was hearing \$6 million annual costs for various options and asked if the council wanted to do regional or in house. He stated regional seemed risky and was not inclined toward it and was not sure if there was demand from other cities for it. He stated he didn't want to come out tonight asking for different mitigation strategies across the whole spectrum but asked what were two model that the council would want to delve into. What are the cost they for it. He stated there were some clarifying questions they could get answers to in the next two months and then they could start the discussion of, how they were going to make it happen and how they were going to mitigate the annual costs. He stated the only way they didn't have to mitigate the costs, if they set up a regional plan, which seemed risky and everyone would pay a lot of money to offset the city's costs. He stated it was risky because they didn't don't know the demand. He stated his instinct was to have the water treatment plant in house. There would be a \$6 million cost and needed to talk about how to offset those costs. He stated he didn't want to leave tonight having staff spend another 3 months on it. He would like to come out with the council members thinking about a model and then start looking into that model and if they wanted to, could start discussing that with the residents.

Council Member Tran stated they needed to find the right level on what softener and do something.

Council Member Klonowski stated they should explore two options. She thought they should look at regional with Maple Grove if they had a good development plan and they could hold the land. She stated they should look at the costs on piping to the city and what that looked like, if other communities were interested, and also look at not running from river because it's a potential risk, and develop the softening at the city. She stated that was the \$47 million costs they had to figure out along with the \$6 million annually. She stated the issue had been kicked down the road a long time and was not going to get any cheaper.

Council Member Morson agreed with the in house more than anything else but should be mindful on the on going expenses. He stated it would cost the residents to maintain it, and was at \$6 million and didn't know if that was a hard number or would fluctuate.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated the \$6 million was for year one, then every year after that would be on the inflationary costs.

Council Member Morson they would have to consider the inflationary costs because it wouldn't be \$6 million annually. He stated his concern was how much more the residents would be obligated to pay. He stated in house was what he suggested and liked having it for the city and everyone would get the same water. He stated that on the 8 mile piping and doing 4 miles of piping, that was just spending money before they got anything. He stated he was in favor for staying in house to make it happen in the city.

Council Member Lee stated he was leaning toward in house and liked staying with the city's own system and adding on to what it had. He stated if Maple Grove or someone else was interested in cost sharing, could work out, then they should look into it. he stated the biggest thing for him was making sure they had the support of the residents. He stated he knew it had been a topic for a long time and felt it had been kicked down the road. He stated that council after council, presentations, and studies, decided not to pursue it. He stated there needed to be better education and mitigation, He stated that was why he came back making sure they understood what the residents were experiencing. He stated it went back to the garbage issue, and if it was 50/50, it fell on the council to make the decision. He stated some wouldn't Like it in terms of willing to pay the costs. He stated that as long as they had the information to be able to say what they were getting and be comfortable with it. He stated it was for looking into it even if had a 50 percent support then he would go for the in house softening but still wanted to see mitigation options. He stated the more they could mitigate it, the less cost they could incur but would have better quality and at some point sell some water.

Council Member Klonowski stated the city did not have the capacity to sell water. They would have to build more towers to maintain its own capacity and would have think regional if they were going to be the seller of water.

Mayor Winston stated what he was hearing, there was a strong leaning to be doing it by the city. To also consider the regional approach and within the regional approach, what it looked like if was joint and what it also would look like if the city decided to be the regional provider. Was there a model in terms of what the demand would be, and what the city could charge for the demand. He stated that Maple Grove seemed to be doing well and if they were willing to pay rates, like New Hope, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and what would that translate to the city's costs. If it would help mitigate it or not to help justify it. Within that regional approach, what it looked like if it was joint, what does it looked like if the city wanted to take advantage off the demand that was out there. What the city could charge for it competitively, what if the city charged slightly more what it cost to do it and what that would look like. He stated if they could get a few of those models on that with the help from Finance, a strong component of that would be in house, and the ways to mitigate that 6mil costs.

He stated the other piece from those two approaches was what the process was to find out how people felt about it and would want to give an opinion. He stated his instinct, people would say they didn't want to pay more for something or pay an amount but they were also consistently saying, they had a problem with water. He stated the other councils had kicked it down the road because it had a potential to be somewhat controversial. He stated it was now landing on the current council's lap and staff could provide some type of models and find out what the demand was. He summarized, with the process to give reach out to the residents, the two models and how did the city interact with community to figure out what their issues were with water and how far they were willing to go to pay for it.

Council Member Lee stated the council also had other financial decisions as well. He stated the firehouse funding was a priority for him. He didn't know if there would be any conflicts in trying

to pursue funding for those two projects and there was also the recreation and parks referendum that was coming up for another vote that would continue to support the recreation and parks projects and there was the LRT too.

Mayor Winston stated they were other things too but would like to begin the process of having the discussion of the real costs and what the minerals were doing to the pipes and at older homes and apartment complexes. He stated if they didn't do the upkeep that water destroyed the pipes and would have to deal with those issues. He stated he didn't want to go down the road of some study about how much it destroyed it but to be able to begin understanding the costs that came with not addressing that issue and not addressing it for so long. He stated the other councils might not have addressed it and there was a reason but the city was struggling with some of the issues because the council had not addressing those issues for 10 years. He stated they could at least start looking at those issues and would like a better understanding of what it all looked like and had two models to review, He stated it would be nice to come back in a month or two months.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated he could target April to come back to the council with additional information and research the questions the council had. He stated the department health might come back with more information on the PFAS considerations too. He stated he would also like to do additional outreach to residents about the water, to call staff to check out their water softeners and could do more education on the proper softening at the homes. He stated council could send any concerns to staff and they would come out and handle them on a case-by-case basis.

Council Member Morson stated he would like to also get estimates after the \$6 million annual costs, the percentage it was going up with the inflation and what the residents would be expected to pay for it.

D. VERBAL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

D.1 COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Morson stated he attended the Ehlers Conference over the past weekend and gained some information on long term financial investments, strategic planning and some of the things the surrounding cities were doing. He stated he had been invited to some those cities and would bring that information back and looked forward to creating that network and maybe utilize the things those cities were doing.

D.2 CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel stated there were commission interviews at the lasts council meeting and asked the council if they had not turned in their selections, to turn them in to him or Marlene so she could tabulate them and get them to the Mayor for next Monday.

E. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT – With consensus of the Council, Mayor Winston adjourned the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

HOLLIES WINSTON, MAYOR

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK