

Adopted Minutes Special Council Meeting April 22, 2014

Mayor Slavik called a Special Meeting of the Plymouth City Council to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Medicine Lake Room of City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, on April 22, 2014.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Slavik, Councilmembers Wosje, Stein, Willis, Bildsoe, Johnson, and Prom.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Callister, Administrative Services Director Fischer, Park and Recreation Director Evans, City Forester Buck, Community Development Director Juetten, Planning Manager Thomson, Deputy Park and Recreation Director Northway, and City Clerk Engdahl.

Emerald Ash Borer Program Update

Deputy Park and Recreation Director Northway and City Forester Buck provided an update on the City's Emerald Ash Program (EAB). They stated in May and June, staff will be injecting 338 ash trees, greater than 15" in diameter, within the maintained areas of parks. The Council has budgeted \$17,000 in the budget to accomplish this task. The work will be completed in-house by staff on a biennial basis using an injection mode of application. Based on current research, the City will need to treat ash trees for the next 10 years to combat EAB. Staff will also be providing an education component to residents regarding EAB and treatment.

They requested direction from the Council regarding the City's practice for boulevard ash trees and the potential treatment for EAB. These are trees within the right-of-way on City property. Currently, all trees within the right-of-way are maintained by staff which is trimming and removal of trees. There are 542 ash trees greater than 15" in the boulevards. They noted that the staff report contained three options, and staff is recommending Option A. With this option, the City would fully pay for the injection treatment in all of the boulevard ash trees greater than 15" in diameter. If this would be the Council's direction, staff has outlined a management strategy. Staff's best estimation is that infestation will move across the City from east to west. Dividing the City into an east and west side and treating both park and boulevard trees on each side would be the preferred strategy. In 2014, and subsequent even years, 440 ash trees on the east side would be treated. In 2015, and subsequent odd years, 440 ash trees on the west side would be treated. This change in strategy would require a change in funding. Considering \$17,000 is already budgeted for EAB in 2014, an additional \$9,529 would need to be added to the budget to treat the east side trees. Beginning in 2015, \$26,529 would need to be budgeted for treatment of ash trees annually.

The majority of the Council supported trying the treatment for 2014 for the additional \$9,529 and having staff report back to the Council.

Met Council Thrive 2040

Community Development Director Juetten gave a presentation on the Metropolitan Council's Thrive MSP 2040 draft document.

Mayor Slavik adjourned the study session at 5:55 p.m. and stated the Council would reconvene this study session following the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Slavik reconvened the study session at 6:25 p.m.

The majority of the Council were concerned with the language of many areas of the document, including the 2040 population, household and employment projections, and they voiced their concerns to the staff regarding the specific areas.

The Council directed staff to provide a summary of their concerns to the Metro Cities meeting on April 24.

Adjournment

Mayor Slavik adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.



Sandra R. Engdahl, City Clerk