

**WORKSESSION OF THE ANOKA CITY COUNCIL
ANOKA CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 7, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rice called the worksession meeting to order at 9:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present at roll call: Mayor Rice, Councilmembers Barnett, Skogquist, Weaver, and Wesp.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Lee; City Planner Clark Palmer; Public Services Director Mark Anderson; Finance Director Brenda Springer; Police Chief Eric Peterson.

Absent: None.

3. COUNCIL BUSINESS and/or DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Discussion; Law Enforcement Training Center/Animal Containment Options.

City Manager Greg Lee shared a staff report with background information stating on December 21, 2020 the City Council approved a resolution ordering a project that included a Law Enforcement Training Center (LETC) and the Animal Control Facility (ACF). Bids for the project were received on May 6, 2021. On May 3, 2021, the sale of \$6M in bonds did not pass as it required a 4/5th vote, and only received a 3/4th vote. On May 24, 2021, the City Council discussed bonding strategies which included the Law Enforcement Training Center (LETC) and the Animal Control Facility (ACF). Direction was given by the City Council to postpone consideration of awarding a contract for the LETC/ACF until June 21. Direction was also given to have staff look at providing more options for the LETC/ACF for consideration. He outlined the options for the LETC and ACF in detail that included building as planned with proposed bonding; building as planned without proposed bonding; build only the enhanced LETC; build the enhanced LETC and ACF on the lower level, and a no building option. Mr. Lee outlined in detail each option then asked for Council to provide direction on next steps.

Mayor Rice said his concern was the increase in materials compared to six months ago and the need to build now as costs will only continue to rise.

Councilmember Wesp asked why an elevator was not included or required. Public Services Director Mark Anderson responded that based on the type and use of building an elevator is not required.

Councilmember Weaver noted this building could be used for a different use in the future and could then require an elevator.

Councilmember Wesp said he was not in favor of having the second level animal containment facility but would support bonding for the building. He said while he did not support the building design or see a 1.1% levy in taxes, he did not want to decrease our strategic position from borrowing from the land or electric utility and would support the bonding ordinance.

Finance Director Brenda Springer said staff could bring forward a bonding amount not to exceed \$6 million for 2021 and the remaining amount for 2022, ensuring that both would be under \$10 million.

Mayor Rice noted the bonding amount would be substantially less in 2022.

Councilmember Wesp understood this has been difficult process for the police department, especially for command staff, and did not want to diminish training officers needed and deserved. He said it was important to move forward and give the department what we said we would do and while he would vote against the proposed plans, he would support the bonding proposal.

Police Chief Eric Peterson thanked the Council for making this difficult decision regarding taxpayer dollars and said he appreciated the Council's support. He said he did not take this action lightly and intended to maximize the facility's capacity which would include leasing to other organizations to help offset some costs.

INAUDIBLE PORTIONS

Councilmember Wesp said Federal Cartridge was committed to providing \$50,000 towards the facility as well as a private citizen in the amount of \$10,000. He said it was important to the Council and this resident that the department have the best training possible and that there may be other private donations coming forward.

Mayor Rice asked how much time would be available for rental to other agencies. Chief Peterson said there would be time available for rental of the gun range, adding his intent was to engage the community and offer both youth and adult firearm safety training, especially in light of the increase in gun permit applications over the past year.

Councilmember Barnett suggested leasing out the simulator as well.

Mr. Anderson suggested the elevator cost could be included as a change order should Council wish to consider, adding the cost would be approximately \$75,000.

Mr. Lee said he felt the elevator may not be the best idea as without they could better separate the public and private uses of the facility. He summarized that staff would bring back bids for the project bonding for 2021 in the format of a resolution for \$6 million for 2021 and an ordinance for not to exceed \$10 million for 2022, along with resolutions to accept the bid and award the contract.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Wesp, seconded by Councilmember Weaver to adjourn the Worksession at 9:33 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Cathy Sorensen, *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

Approval Attestation:

Amy T. Oehlers, City Clerk