

North Branch City Council

Work Session

Date of Meeting: June 5, 2014

Present: Councilmembers: Ronald Lindquist, Theresa Furman, Kathy Blomquist and Joyce Borchardt.

Absent: Trent Jensen

Also Present: City Administrator Konrad, Finance Director Hill and Public Works Director Williams

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Geronimo Energy

Geronimo Energy provided information to Council to review on a solar energy development. Geronimo Energy outlined their proposed timelines for the necessary studies and suggested a possible construction beginning date of 2016. Only a portion of the project is in North Branch. They are submitting a proposal to Xcel Energy later in the month and will be competing for the project from a statewide pool of application. Council agreed to have staff draft a letter of support for their application. Konrad noted that other companies that are submitting proposals have contacted staff with question on land use regulations. The City does not have any current ordinances but the Planning Commission will be discussing next week if they want to take the proactive step to put regulations in place. Planner Roberts is working on an ordinance for the County so will be able to utilize that information at the City as well.

III. Superior Silica Project Update

Konrad reported that the City received notification from Superior Silica that they do not want to move forward. Konrad suggested meeting with Taylor's Falls to discuss things. Konrad also suggested that this project has brought to light transportation issues in the area. Konrad noted that at the EDA meeting today there was discussion of a sub-committee to discuss the development agreement. Council would like to establish the subcommittee.

IV. Budget

Hill explained the Moody's downgrade in rating. Hill indicated that the City has a plan and is executing the plan. Hill provided scenarios for the Council to consider with regard to debt repayment and possible impact to the levy. Konrad suggested a meeting schedule for budget work session meetings. Budget discussions will begin in July.

Lindquist indicated that Council discussed not having a primary and he would like to put it on the next Agenda. Konrad indicated that it would need to be added to the following Agenda. Konrad noted there are two mayor candidates and four council candidates so there will be no city offices on the primary.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Borchardt to adjourn.

Adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgitte Konrad, City Administrator
jrl/TOSS