

**AGENDA**  
**CITY OF MINNETONKA**  
**STUDY SESSION**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM**

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1. Update from City Manager
2. 2008-12 Capital Improvements Program
3. Adjournment

Additional Information  
Study Session summary February 12, 2007  
Study Session summary March 19, 2007

The purpose of a study session is to allow the city council to discuss matters informally and in greater detail than permitted at formal council meetings. While all meetings of the council are open to the public, study session discussions are generally limited to the council, staff and consultants.

**City Council Study Session # 1**  
**Meeting of April 16, 2007**

**Brief Description:** 2008-12 Capital Improvements Program.

**Requested Action:** Review proposed CIP and provide feedback.

**Background**

This proposed 2008-12 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) details capital expenditures in the city of Minnetonka over the next five years. Similar to the annual operating budget, the CIP is a policy document. It is the city's plan to provide and maintain facilities for the citizens and businesses of Minnetonka within the constraints of limited resources.

The CIP reflects ongoing capital needs for new construction, and also for the reconstruction and maintenance of our substantial investments in streets, utilities, parks, buildings and equipment.

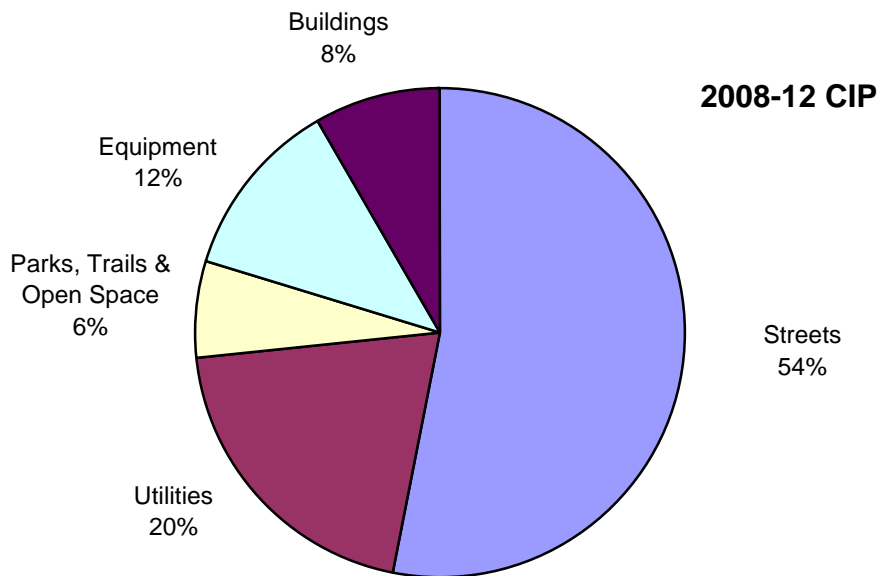
The recommended CIP is consistent with the city's capital improvement fiscal policy, which establishes funding priorities for projects that contribute to the public health and welfare, maintain an existing system or make it more efficient, and expand public services.

The majority of the projects included in this recommended CIP have been reviewed in previous years. However, changes in the city's operational needs and available resources require that the plan be reevaluated on an annual basis. While no substantial modifications are recommended this year, adjustments are made to storm drainage priorities consistent with recent council direction. Rising material costs also require the reprogramming of projects to bury overhead utilities.

**What the CIP funds**

The recommended 2008-12 CIP funds \$73.5 million in projects over the next five years; Hennepin County will spend another \$26.3 million on county road projects in Minnetonka. With the recent increase in local roadway funding, city street investments now represent well over one-half of the total. This is a significant increase from about one-third of the total CIP in past years.

Water, sewer and storm drainage utilities account for 20 percent of the total, and reflect the new water meter replacement and infiltration and inflow (I&I) reduction programs. As the park renewal program nears completion, parks, trails and open space account for a declining share of CIP investments.



Total 2008-12 capital expenditures are similar to last year's CIP, which included major increases in street improvement and utility funding.

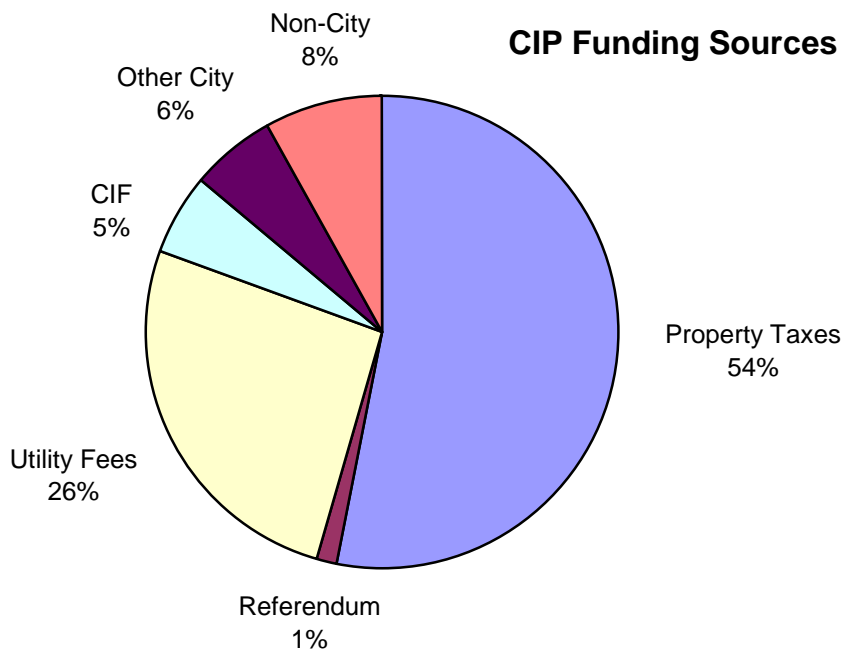
CIP (000's)	2005-09	2006-10	2007-11	2008-12
Street Improvements	\$19,912	\$30,315	\$37,018	\$39,028
Buildings & Equipment	13,660	12,650	13,127	14,874
Parks, Trails & Open Space	9,154	14,211	7,700	4,743
Water, Sewer & Drainage	17,886	8,197	15,801	14,845
<b>Total CIP</b>	<b>\$60,612</b>	<b>\$65,373</b>	<b>\$73,646</b>	<b>\$73,490</b>

## How the CIP is funded

With the recent increase in street funding, well over one-half of the recommended CIP is financed with property taxes, including both annual levies and the voter approved parks and open space referendum. These local taxes support investments in streets, parks, public buildings and equipment.

The next largest share of the CIP is funded through utility fees, which pay for all water, sewer and storm drainage projects. In addition, the franchise fees that appear on electric utility bills fund the city's program to bury utility lines along major streets.

Although interest earnings are generating more revenue, the Community Investment Fund (CIF) continues to account for a relatively minor portion of the five year total. Most non-city revenue is municipal state aid (MSA) for roads.



## **Burying overhead utilities**

Xcel Energy costs for overhead utility burial projects have been rapidly escalating in recent years as a result of growing material costs; equipment shortages also exist due to Hurricane Katrina. Xcel indicates these cost pressures are expected to continue, and recently suggested the city adjust estimated future budget costs.

The adjusted budget significantly exceeds anticipated revenue to be generated by the current franchise fee dedicated for burying overhead utility lines. Since the 2008-12 CIP only includes projects related to county road reconstruction, options are limited. It would neither be desirable to indefinitely postpone county road reconstruction, nor to fully fund all scheduled projects – the latter would require an increase in the current \$2.00 franchise fee to more than \$3.00 per property.

Instead, staff recommends a balanced solution of providing more resources to allow the completion of priority projects, and also eliminating those higher cost projects with fewer public benefits. Overhead lines along these road projects would be relocated, rather than buried. Staff recommends the following specific changes to bring the fund into structural balance:

- **Increased resources.** The current franchise fee is \$2.00 per month for all customers, regardless of use. To meet recommended project requirements, staff recommends increasing the residential rate to \$2.50 per month, and the commercial rate to \$5.00, with a \$4.50 rate for smaller businesses. A higher rate for commercial customers is justified by the higher costs of burying overhead lines in and around commercial areas. The new rates remain well below the statutory maximum.
- **Reprogramming.** Staff also recommends relocating overhead utility lines for the Vinehill Road (Townline Road to TH 7) project, rather than burying the lines. The public benefits of this project do not justify its \$1,485,000 cost – the most expensive project in last year’s CIP. Council took a similar action last year with the Dominick project.

***Discussion question: Does council agree that the electric franchise fee should be increased and projects reprogrammed as recommended?***

## Other CIP highlights

**Road revitalization.** The recommended CIP continues the major increase in local funding council has dedicated in recent years to stabilize, repair and maintain the city's 250 miles of local streets. A cost-effective thin overlay process is being used to stabilize deteriorating pavement and prolong the life of city streets until major road reconstruction can take place. The city is now committing an average of nearly \$8 million annually to the revitalization of our roads. Community survey results indicate that citizens are recognizing these efforts with improved ratings. Future fund balance pressures are expected to be significantly eased when the state finally adopts a long-term, comprehensive transportation funding program.

**Stormwater improvements.** This CIP reflects council direction at its recent study session regarding funding and prioritization of stormwater projects. Funding pressures have arisen from the need to coordinate projects with park renewal and street reconstruction, expected infiltration and inflow reduction projects, unfunded federal mandates and higher than normal inflation. Recommended fee increases bring Minnetonka's charges in line with comparable cities. Projects are ranked so that high priorities include road and I&I projects, unfunded mandates and major structure flooding; medium priorities include minor structure flooding, erosion, water quality, and street flooding causing public safety concerns. Lower priority nuisance flooding projects are programmed in future years, and staff is exploring lower cost alternatives to bring fund balances into more acceptable levels.

**Infiltration & Inflow reduction.** A new program was recently initiated to reduce stormwater infiltration and inflow into the city's sanitary sewer system to avoid overloading regional treatment plants and Met Council surcharges. City-wide inspections are now underway, and the CIP budgets \$1.38 million annually for the program, with one million of that amount earmarked for an incentive program to encourage corrections. It is intended that the I&I program will be fully funded within normal water and sewer rate increases.

**Parks, open space and trails.** Referendum projects will be completed within the next couple of years, and flexibility is provided for future open space acquisition. The successful athletic field partnership program is continued; previous city investments of \$300,000 have leveraged \$4.7 million in needed field expansions. Major trail segments are programmed in future years, and funding is reserved to implement various Minnehaha Creek corridor projects as planning proceeds.

**Buildings and equipment.** The vehicle replacement program is continued for major public works and fire equipment. Staff recommends that the MVHC refund expected this year be reserved to purchase a respirator air truck for the fire department, and to replace and upgrade the city's aging phone system. Funding is reserved to refurbish the city's five fire stations, Community Center, Williston and Shady Oak Beach, and to replace 14 community building roofs. A review of future Williston options will take place with Comp Plan strategic service planning.

## **Recommendation**

Feedback on the recommended 2008-12 CIP is requested. As always, this proposed CIP reflects previous council direction and addresses the capital priorities of the city of Minnetonka in a prudent and cost effective manner.

This responsible approach preserves the city's outstanding financial condition as reflected in our Aaa bond rating and our reasonable tax and utility rates. Adopting a long-range Capital Improvements Program helps maintain Minnetonka's positive financial position by dealing responsibly with the development and maintenance of the city's extensive community infrastructure.

Originated by:        John Gunyou, City Manager  
                              Geraldyn Barone, Asst City Manager  
                              Merrill King, Finance Director

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**Council Present:** Dick Allendorf, Bob Ellingson, Terry Schneider, Al Thomas, Tony Wagner, Brad Wiersum and Mayor Jan Callison

**Council Absent:** None

**Staff:** John Gunyou, GERALYN Barone, Ron Rankin, Julie Wischnack, Desyl Peterson, David Maeda

Callison called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**1. Report from the city manager**

Gunyou said that around 1,100 residents attended Kids' Fest the previous day. That number was down from last year's attendance of around 1,700, but Gunyou said that the city's recreation staff indicated this year's attendance was more manageable than last year's record turnout.

**2. Boards and commissions interview**

The council interviewed David Carroll, an applicant for the senior citizens advisory board. Carroll said he had been contacted to apply for the board in previous years but has never had the time available to serve. He said he volunteers at the senior center six or seven times a month and also is a tour guide at the Burwell House. Carroll retired three years ago after working for a glass company in the city.

Wiersum asked what Carroll liked most about the senior center and what he liked least. Carroll responded that he thought the center had a good variety of classes and events. He said one area that needs improvement is gathering feedback from residents. He said currently the surveys and questionnaires are not a popular method to collect feedback and one of his ideas is to do phone calls to survey the community.

Callison said that appointments to the various boards and commissions will likely occur at the next council meeting.

**3. I-494 Corridor Commission**

Allendorf distributed a handout listing the commission's 2007 legislative priorities. He said that the highway projects scheduled to begin after 2015 have no current funding source and that a reliable funding source needs to be identified. The commission is backing a legislative proposal similar to one sponsored last session by Rep. Ron Erhardt that passed the House and Senate and was vetoed by Gov. Pawlenty. The proposal includes a number of different funding sources including a dedication of sales taxes collected on leased vehicles to highways

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and transit; an increase in the gas tax; an increase in the license tab fees; transportation bonding; and exploring broadening the statewide sales tax and allowing the use of region-wide sales tax options.

Allendorf said that the legislature currently may favor a five cent increase in the gas tax as opposed to the 10 cent increase proposed last session.

Wagner said that the League of Minnesota Cities has also made transportation funding a priority. He said the League has developed a sample resolution for cities to pass expressing support for an increase in transportation funding. Wagner said he realized that the council usually doesn't approve these types of resolutions but given the many projects in the city in need of funding, he requested that the council have a discussion on this proposed resolution.

Callison asked staff to circulate the sample resolution for council input.

**4. Temporary structure ordinance**

Community Development Director Ron Rankin presented the staff's recommended ordinance and indicated he was looking for the council's input before the ordinance is formally introduced.

Schneider said that the proposed ordinance in general was going in the right direction but that the restrictions on color caught his attention. He also said he found it difficult to believe that the cloth structures in the presentation could handle the requirements of being able to withstand 90-mile-an-hour winds, and a snowload of 40 pounds per square foot.

Gunyou said that the ordinance was drafted with the intention to include commercially available off-the-shelf structures.

Ellingson said he supported the purpose of the ordinance but questioned what in reality residents would do with a boat if the temporary structure had to come down six months a year.

Wiersum said he thought the solution was there - that residents could decide to get rid of their boat or to cover it. He said the approach of the proposed ordinance was reasonable in treating temporary structures similar to permanent structures.

Wagner said he thought the temporary storage area should count toward the city's maximum allowable amount of outdoor storage of 1,000 square feet. He also said that he would recommend a different standard than the proposed 50 foot setback from the front property line because some homes are further back from the front property line.

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Allendorf said like Schneider, the restrictions on color caught his eye. He said he was not aware of any other city regulation that restricted use of certain colors.

Thomas said he agreed with Wagner's concern about the 50 foot setback from the front property line. He said that the ordinance should ensure that the structures are located behind the rear line of the house. He thought that they should meet the same standards as sheds.

Wiersum agreed that the setbacks should be the same as for sheds and that he also had concerns about restricting certain colors. He said that residents would likely view that as too much government regulation.

Callison raised a concern about the use of the term "temporary structure" since some of the vehicle storage structures were not meant to be temporary and therefore the language may be creating a loophole for those types of structures.

Wagner asked if the city's salt storage shed complied with the proposed ordinance.

City Attorney Desyl Peterson said that the proposed ordinance applies only to single family or two family residential properties.

In regards to the concerns about the color restriction in the ordinance, Rankin said that many of the current complaints from residents are about the colors of tarps used to cover boats and other items.

Schneider suggested the ordinance be rewritten so that it requires that the color of the structure blend in with its surroundings.

Wiersum suggested that the required permit include language that encourages the permit holder to be considerate of neighbors when deciding on the color of the structure.

**5. Comprehensive plan process**

Gunyou said staff was looking for the council's input on the selection and role of the steering committee as well as a discussion on community involvement in the comprehensive plan process.

Consultant Beth Bartz from SRF Consulting Group gave a presentation of the proposed comp plan process. The visioning process includes conducting a community survey in March and using the *Minnetonka Memo* and city web site to provide information to residents. Bartz said there would be a staff workshop in

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April and a community listening session April 10. The plan calls for a joint council and boards and commissions workshop April 18 and for the council to review the process in May.

Allendorf asked the approach being taken to encourage the maximum resident participation in the sessions. Bartz indicated that originally the thought was to coordinate the listening sessions with other community festivals, but the timing of the process was such that approach wouldn't work. She said she agreed with Allendorf that it is a challenge to get people involved and that scheduling early morning and late afternoon sessions hopefully would increase participation.

Barone said that along with the community survey, invitations would be sent to stakeholders representing various community groups. Bartz said that taking different approaches was meant to increase turnout. She said surveys would work for some people but that others prefer personal interaction. Gunyou agreed and said that providing multiple opportunities for residents to provide feedback would allow as many people as possible to participate.

Schneider suggested renaming the listening sessions as "feedback sessions." He said that past experience has taught him that if something isn't done the way a resident suggests, it opens the city up to the criticism it didn't listen. He said that inviting a known keynote speaker and including some type of electronic voting to provide instant feedback might increase participation.

Callison agreed getting people involved was a crucial piece of the process, setting the foundation for the plan.

Wiersum said that community education also needed to be considered in the process, because many residents were not clear on what the purpose of the comprehensive plan is and what it is not designed to be. Education is important, he said, so that residents understand that the plan is a guide and not a manifesto. He said that the guide plan discussion should also be tied in with a discussion on what the city's ordinances say and what they do not say.

Ellingson suggested the sessions be televised.

Gunyou said the listening sessions were meant to be a kickoff to the process. He said that the sessions would open the discussion about reaffirming the city's current values and determining if those values should be the same 20 years from now.

Callison said for the plan to succeed, the community has to buy into it by feeling they had contributed in the development.

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Wiersum suggested that instead of just a single article in the *Minnetonka Memo*, that a series of front page articles for several months would signal the importance of the comp plan process.

Wischnack indicated that staff could put together a fact sheet about what the comprehensive plan is supposed to be. She said this might answer some of Wiersum's concern about educating residents and clearing up misconceptions.

Gunyou said it was important to keep in mind that the comp plan is more than a land use plan. He said that the plan also needs to look at what services the city should be providing 20 years from now and the overall direction the city will be taking. Twenty years ago the cities of Edina and St. Louis Park had similar demographics, but the cities took different directions. Edina's population now includes more elderly residents while St. Louis Park's has become more diverse. Minnetonka's population is now aging like these neighbors, so the comp plan should include a discussion about what direction we might take as a community. For example, the city's recreation programs could be focused on more programs for the growing senior population. Alternatively, the city might decide to focus on attracting younger families with a mix of programs to maintain greater diversity in the population.

Schneider said it was important that the demographic studies include somebody that has the ability to interpret the data and identify potential trends and demographic shifts.

Bartz replied that one of the people that may be asked to take a part in the process is Tom Gillaspy, the state demographer.

Thomas said that one area that was missing from the proposed special studies was a transportation plan. He said the Metropolitan Council's focus on affordable housing has lacked the corresponding link for the need for more public transportation.

Callison agreed the comp plan is more than a land use document. It should address quality of life issues like natural resources and include looking at specific policies such as making the city's building code more "green"

Wischnack agreed and indicated that the implementation plan portion of most comprehensive plans is an afterthought, but the city's implementation plan will be much more detailed.

Schneider expressed concern about keeping the comp plan workable. He said that by making it too broad and getting away from the basic land use documents, there may not be enough resources available.

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Gunyou replied the components of the comp plan beyond those typically included in a land use plan would primarily involve internal staff. He then asked the council for input on who should chair the steering committee and the makeup of the committee.

Wiersum suggested Callison chair the committee, saying she was exceedingly well prepared for meetings and that would reflect well on the city. He said that the committee would be strengthened if the mayor was chair because people would feel that the committee had the council's attention.

Schneider said one concern he had with the mayor chairing the committee is that the council might be perceived as playing too big a role and having too much influence on the process. Allendorf said that when he chaired the last steering committee, the role of the chair primarily was to keep the committee on task and run the meeting.

Callison said she agreed that the committee should be made up of a mixture of boards and commissions members as well as residents who are not part of the status quo and could bring different perspectives. She said the membership of the council, boards, and commissions should be limited, and suggested that a single member from each of the park board, planning commission, and economic development authority serve on the committee. She said that if the right young person could be found it would be nice to get the youth perspective as well.

Thomas agreed that Callison would be a good selection to chair the committee. He said that the mayor understands the need to stay on task and that the work needs to get done. He said an effort should be made to find people who normally are not active on the city's boards and commissions. He suggested looking at some of the recent applicants who will not be placed on any of the boards and commissions to get a wide range of perspectives.

The council concurred that Callison should serve as chair of the comp plan steering committee.

**6. Adjournment**

The study session adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Maeda  
City Clerk

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**Council Present:** Dick Allendorf, Al Thomas, Tony Wagner, Brad Wiersum and Mayor Jan Callison

**Council Absent:** Bob Ellingson, Terry Schneider

**Staff:** Geralyn Barone, Joe Wallin, Lee Gustafson, Steve Lillehaug, Merrill King, Darin Nelson, Ron Rankin, Brian Wagstrom, David Maeda

Callison called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**1. Report from the assistant city manager and council members**

Assistant city manager Geralyn Barone reported that the city's Eco-Fair attracted around 250 to 275 people on par with past years. A survey showed that most who attended had not attended previous fairs. The most popular seminar was "Coping with Shade" that attracted 93 people. The joint meeting with the Hopkins city council scheduled for March 27 has been postponed. Community Development director Ron Rankin said that the county will likely have a better idea of the exact land acquisition cost for the Shady Oak Road project soon and the meeting will likely be rescheduled for early May. Callison said county commissioner Linda Koblick is working on a resolution for the commissioners to express support.

Wagner asked Callison about the National League of Cities conference in Washington D.C. she and Schneider attended last week. Callison said that it was a good conference and they were able to meet with the staffs of Sen. Norm Coleman, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Rep. Keith Ellison, and Rep. Jim Ramstad about the Glencoe project. Ellison is likely to propose funding in the budget for the project.

**2. Emergency plan update**

Fire chief Joe Wallin gave the council a presentation on the city's emergency plan. He pointed out that one of the changes contained in the proposed plan is a different way to use radio communication channels. Historically the fire and police departments use their own channels when responding to a situation as does the EMS personnel. Wallin said the plan calls for a channel to be assigned to a specific channel thus allowing all personnel responding to an event to communicate with each other.

Callison asked what if any backup system was in place for communications. Wallin responded the system uses scene of action channels not dependent on a computer system but instead allows for radio to radio communication.

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Callison asked if the city has 311 system capabilities should the 911 system become overwhelmed. Wallin said the city does not because the same people who will answer the 911 calls would also have to answer the 311 calls. He said the boards and commissions room in city hall is capable of hosting a phone bank and staff would be given scripts to respond to calls.

Thomas asked how the city's website would be integrated in an emergency situation. Wallin said information can be posted immediately. Thomas suggested that the use of the website be specifically spelled out in the plan. Wallin agreed this was a good idea.

Wallin praised a pilot program with the Minnetonka School District. The program will provide preparation training including CPR training to every high school student in the district. He said the program teaches the students how they can affect outcomes of things that happen to them.

Callison asked how the plan addresses transportation of the vulnerable like those in assisted living situations or suffering from Alzheimer's. Wallin said that the issue had been discussed but was not in the plan yet. Wiersum suggested that community groups such as the Boy Scouts or other organizations be specifically trained to assist in helping out this segment of the population.

Thomas asked if the city has trained weather spotters. Wallin said the police and fire departments are trained, but in the metro area weather spotting is not as vital as in rural Minnesota since in most severe weather situations the city receives many calls from the public providing storm related observation.

Wallin pointed out that around ten years ago there was a winter storm in the city where around 400 homes lost power. The city of Eden Prairie was similarly affected so the decision was made to work with the Red Cross to open an emergency shelter. Only three people showed up as most people had friends or family they stayed with.

Thomas said that following a storm residents have asked him if the city will remove fallen trees and branches if they are moved out to the sidewalk. Wallin confirmed on private property it is the property owner's responsibility to remove debris.

Callison asked if the plans take into account in public health situations that responders may not be able to assist because of their own health. Wallin said the plan takes into account the difficulty the city will have making sure there is enough staff available to deal with those type emergency situations. Staff will not only have to take care of themselves, but also their families. He said just getting employees to work will be a challenge. The city continues to work with Eden

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Prairie and Bloomington to respond even more seamlessly in public health situations.

Barone mentioned that a television news station was investigating the functionality of emergency sirens in the state. She complimented the public works department for doing a good job testing the sirens in the city and keeping good records on the system. Wallin agreed and said if a siren is found not working Public Works is quick to repair it.

**3. Storm water CIP and proposed fee increase review**

Director of engineering Lee Gustafson presented the staff report.

Allendorf said the fee increase might be seen by some as a tax increase and asked what improvements and long term savings the public will see. Gustafson replied that tracking the long term savings is difficult but by doing projects sooner rather than later savings would occur in several areas. As an example by improving roads, maintenance costs are saved as are the costs associated with inflation on materials like asphalt and concrete. Savings also occur in environmental areas where dealing early on with state and federal mandates such as improving water quality standards saves money.

Thomas inquired how far into the future the MSA funds are spent. Gustafson said that a couple of the bigger county projects have used up much of the funds. He said that the retaining walls being used on those projects are much more expensive than the traditional modular block walls. The city is responsible for paying half of the cost of those walls or acquiring the right of way.

Allendorf asked if the 75 cent increase applied only to residents or if the increase also applies to businesses. Gustafson said the 75 cent increase only applies to residents and the business increase is based on a formula in the ordinance. Allendorf then asked why cities like Eden Prairie and St. Louis Park have lower utility fees. Gustafson explained that in Eden Prairie when a new development is built, the streets are constructed with complete storm sewer systems.

Wagner asked if the city needs to do more when proposed redevelopment projects come forward. Gustafson said the city looks at everything at the beginning of a project to save costs in the future. He said the last thing he wants is for a council member to call him and ask why an issue wasn't taken care of when a nearby project is done.

Wiersum said he was concerned about the 18 percent increase in the fee and the nearly 60 percent increase in the three or four years since the utility fees were established. He questioned how the city would get in front of the increases.

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Gustafson replied two years ago the financial impacts of the federal mandates weren't known and that he is confident the city now has a better handle on anticipating those types of mandates.

Callison said she was concerned like in transit discussions it was not possible for the city to build its way out of the issue. Instead of building more pipes and concrete she asked if there may be other alternatives that should be examined. Gustafson said that is already done and when the city can do something that qualifies for a load reduction credit the opportunity is taken. Each project is different however as issues and soil determine what can be done. Callison asked what would occur if the council decided upon a 50 cent increase instead of the proposed 75 cent increase. Gustafson replied staff would come back with a scaled back plan proposal.

Thomas asked if there were other funds with similar deficits. Finance director Merrill King replied other funds may go up one year and down the next. The concern with this structural imbalance is it involves an enterprise fund. Thomas said some residents may complain about the increase because they live on properties where an issue has been categorized as being a nuisance but the resident would only see the fee increase and want the city to do something about the issue on their property. Gustafson pointed out a recent discussion with residents that live by Circuit City where many of the properties have a standing water problem. He said those residents seemed OK when it was explained that a street overlay and a future street reconstruction will in time address the problem. Residents not only want to see projects done but see them done correctly.

Allendorf said he would support the fee increase because it amounts to about a nine dollar per year increase and fixes a structural problem. Barone pointed out that it would actually be less than nine dollars this year since the increase hasn't been implemented yet and it will be prorated based on the date of actual implementation.

Thomas said he too thought the increase looked justified but suggested staff look at the possibility of finding ways to solve some of the small nuisance projects. He also suggested that the council look at all the city's fees and have a discussion about adding them to the levy thus allowing residents to write them off on their taxes. Callison said the council implicitly had that discussion when the storm water fee was originally decided upon.

Wiersum suggested looking at creating a category of storm water issues where the city would assess for improvements if the residents agreed the project was important enough pay for. He said he would support the 75 cent increase.

Wagner said he supported the increase as well but prioritizing money in the fund would continue to be an ongoing issue. He said the session's discussion was

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useful because it showed how each project fit into the categories. Gustafson said preparing for the session helped staff, and in the future, similar presentations would be prepared for the council.

Callison said she too would support the increase. She said she was leery of promising people that nuisance projects would be taken care of.

**4. Adjournment**

The study session adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Maeda  
City Clerk