

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- City Council and Art Center Board work session, 5 p.m. Oct. 16
- Community Health Committee, 6:30 p.m. Oct. 17
- City Council, 7 p.m. Oct. 16
- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 pm. Oct. 23

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We'd like to hear from you ...
If you have any comments, call Communications & Technology Services Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.EdinaMN.gov.



A summary of the Oct. 2 Edina City Council meeting

Council begins work on CIP

At a work session prior to its regular meeting, the Council began discussing the City's 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The City implemented a two-year budget cycle process beginning with the 2012-2013 operating budget. While the operating budget and CIP will be reviewed every year, the majority of the planning, focus and effort will alternate between the two. During even-numbered years such as this, the City's focus will be on the CIP. Extra efforts are dedicated to reviewing the projects in the CIP and prioritizing them based on information available at the time. The operating budget is reviewed but only updated if necessary.

While prioritization has always been part of the CIP process, the City implemented a new formal process that standardizes priorities across functions and departments beginning with the 2013-2017 CIP. The prioritization process considers the City's strategic goals and objectives. Projects prioritized as "Critical," "Significant" or "Important" were included in the draft CIP.

Projects proposed for 2013 include street reconstruction projects, playground equipment at Wooddale Park, baseball field improvements at Garden Park and a greater Southdale-area transportation study.

Council Members provided some feedback to staff on the draft CIP. Among the feedback, staff was asked to consider moving a \$1 million expansion of Braemar Golf Course's driving range up in the plan. In the

draft CIP, staff proposed that project for 2015. Also, some Council Members said they would prefer to wait to discuss improvements at the Art Center until after they have reviewed a study of operations there. Proposed projects include a parking lot expansion, HVAC upgrades and software.

Based on the Council's input, staff will prepare a revised draft of the CIP that includes a summary describing the changes to the Oct. 2 draft. Staff will post the latest draft on the City's website and use it as the basis of a public hearing and final Council review and approval in December.

Council honors two Police Officers

Two Edina police officers received department accolades at the Council meeting for their exceptional service.

Sgt. Vik Konters received the Distinguished Service Award for his 20 years of service with the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association Honor Guard (LEMA). A founding member of the organization whose mission is to assist families of officers who have died in the line of duty, Konters has dedicated his wisdom and time to building the first statewide honor guard.

During his tenure, Konters took part in honoring more than 20 fallen police officers and participating in 150 LEMA events around the country. He also served as an instructor at Camp Ripley for LEMA training.

Officer Jim Rygg received the Distinguished Service Award for his dedication to safety through traffic enforcement during his

18-year career with the Edina Police Department. Since joining the department, Rygg has written 25,000 citations and despite his continuous contact with residents, Police Chief Jeff Long said Rygg has always remained respectful and exemplifies the high level of dedication and professionalism the City of Edina aspires to.

Council holds hearings on special assessments

The Council held 14 public hearings for special assessments.

The Council approved assessments for various tree and aquatic weed removals, weed mowing and maintenance in the Grandview Heights and 50th & France commercial district. Assessments for street reconstruction projects in the Golf Terrace, West 70th Street, Killarney Shores, McCauley Heights, Oscar Roberts, West 44th Street and Ridge Road neighborhoods were also approved.

The Council continued action on special assessments proposed for the Minnehaha Woods and Carson's Hill neighborhoods. The final assessment hearing on the Carson's Hill project was continued due to an error in the final assessment roll. The City Council voted to delay the vote on the Minnehaha Woods assessment until after staff was able to re-evaluate the Public Improvement and Special Assessment Agreements, further explain the difference between the estimate and final costs of sanitary sewer service upgrades, and comment on the engineering fees.