

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. Sept. 14
- Park Board, 7 p.m. Sept. 14
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. Sept. 16
- Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m. Sept. 22

City Contacts

Interim City Manager
Heather Worthington 952-826-0415

City Clerk
Debra Mangen 952-826-0408

Assistant to the City Manager
Ceil Smith 952-826-0402

Planning Director
Cary Teague 952-826-0460

Police Chief
Jeff Long 952-826-0491

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



A summary of the Sept. 7 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

Council glimpses possible zoning amendments

At a work session prior to its regular meeting, the Council met with members of the Planning Commission to discuss possible amendments to the zoning ordinance.

A recent Minnesota Supreme Court ruling severely limits the ability of cities to grant variances. In light of the ruling, the Planning Department staff has recommended ordinances for alternative setbacks, Planned Unit Development and driveway width.

Many cities are considering adopting a non-conforming use ordinance to allow expansion of nonconforming structures to match existing nonconforming setbacks. A review of residential variances granted since 2007 reveal that many variances were requested and granted due to a pre-existing nonconforming situations that were matched or continued in a proposed project.

Planned Unit Development is a zoning category that allows innovation in development by the suspension of standard zoning to be replaced by negotiated agreements. The proposed Edina process would include an optional sketch plan review prior to a developer submitting an application.

Historically, the City has issued many variances for driveway widths. The City Code currently requires a 12-foot minimum driveway width, but the average driveway width in the Country Club District is 9.73 feet. Staff has recommended eliminating the minimum width.

Both the Planning Commission and City Council will continue to review the proposed ordinance amendments and act on them later this fall.

Council adopts maximum 2011 tax levies

The Council established the maximum tax levies for 2011.

The maximum 2011 tax levies are \$21.204 million for the General Fund, \$992,072 for the equipment replacement in the Construction Fund, \$1,051,961 for City Hall debt service levy, \$396,444 for the gymnasium debt service levy, \$431,544 for the Fire Station debt levy, \$1,232,460 for the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility debt service levy, and \$164,010 for the debt service of equipment certificates.

Total of all levies would increase by \$595,355 or 2.3 percent.

A public hearing on the budget and levy will be held Dec. 7. The budget will be adopted at the Dec. 21 meeting.

Edina to dispatch for City of Golden Valley

The Council approved a three-year contract with the City of Golden Valley for 9-1-1 dispatching services.

Several months ago, Edina and a handful of other cities were asked to provide proposals for providing computer-aided dispatching for Golden Valley, which currently contracts for such services from St. Louis Park. Edina submitted a proposal that was favored by Golden Valley.

Based upon anticipated call volume, it is recommended the City hire two additional full-time dispatchers to maintain minimum staffing levels. For this staffing level, Golden Valley will pay Edina a base charge of \$14,845 per month in 2011. In addition, Golden Valley will pay 100 percent of the cost of equipment, software and staff training, except a CAD server upgrade for which they will pay 24 percent of the cost.

The Edina Police Department is expected to begin dispatching services for Golden Valley on Jan. 1.

Council dedicates room in honor of Golf Manager

The Council renamed a room at the Warren C. Hyde Clubhouse at Braemar Golf Course.

Longtime Golf Course Manager John Valliere retired Aug. 27 from the City after 41 years of service. During his time as manager, Valliere helped grow the course to 27 regulation holes, two nine-hole executive courses and a Golf Dome. The Pro Shop has more than doubled in size and the clubhouse quadrupled in capacity.

At Mayor Jim Hovland's suggestion, the "Braemar Room" was renamed the "John Valliere Room."

Council approves City Manager contract

The Council approved a contract for incoming City Manager Scott Neal. Under the contract, which was developed by Mayor Jim Hovland and Council Member Ann Swenson with guidance from City Attorney Roger Knutson, Neal will be paid an annual salary of \$150,000. In addition, the City will pay 100 percent of the cost of health and dental insurance for him and his family. Among his fringe benefits, Neal will receive three weeks of paid vacation and 80 hours of sick pay at the beginning of his employment.

Neal has served as City Manager of Eden Prairie since 2002. He was previously the City Administrator of Northfield. He also has held the positions of City Administrator for the communities of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and Norris, Tenn. Neal received his bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration from Iowa State University.