Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Special Meeting of the Brainerd City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Johnson.

Council President Johnson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Upon roll call, the following members were noted present: Bevans, Badeaux, Hilgart, Lambert, Pritschet, Johnson and Mayor Menk. Member Stunek was noted as absent. Also present were City Administrator Torstenson, Finance Director Hillman, Community Development Director Chanski, City Engineer Sandy and Park Director Sailer.

Children's Museum

Council President Johnson explained that in 2015, Sourcewell identified the many programs that exist for children in Region Five that could be joined into developing a children's museum. He said a group from Sourcewell visited the Mankato Children's Museum for ideas. From there, a planning group was created that met several times in 2016 and 2017.

Council President Johnson indicated in 2018, Sourcewell hired two consultants to assemble a master plan for a children's museum, which is now at the site selection phase of the project. They have sent a Request For Proposal (RFP) to several towns and private developers in the five region area to inquire on available sites. The RFP is due back to Sourcewell by Friday, May 3rd, 2019. He indicated the hope is to have the museum start construction in 3-4 years, depending on fundraising efforts, but the potential of Brainerd being chosen for the site would be a great addition with our school expansion project. The RFP was sent to all council members today.

Community Development Director Chanski explained he met with Council Members Badeaux and Johnson, City Engineer Sandy and Tyler Glynn from BLAEDC to draft a response to the RFP. There have been three locations identified in Brainerd are Lum Park, the Brainerd Public Library property and the undeveloped Mississippi Riverfront property that is owned by the City. He stated the RFP had 18 questions which he answered on each of the properties being considered with the assistance of city staff.

Council President Johnson indicated he thought the focus would be on one location, being Lum Park with the others listed as possibilities.

Community Development Director Chanski said City Administrator Torstenson wanted full information listed for all three properties, as each one is unique.

Council President Johnson stated this was more confusing to read through when three properties were being explained.

Community Development Director Chanski indicated the focus can be made on Lum Park and the other properties can be listed as options by highlighting the benefits of each one.

City Administrator Torstenson stated the RFP had the 18 questions asked of any and all available sites that could be considered and we tried to give a full overview of all three areas.

Community Development Director Chanski stated he visited each of the sites and has taken photos of each location as it was requested that maps and/or photos be submitted with the RFP.

Council Member Hilgart stated there would be additional costs to the City if the library property was chosen and does not think the library should be considered.

Council Member Bevans indicated the use of the Lum Park property would be the best choice and since the City would not earn any revenue, the City would not want to lose the Riverfront property.

Council President Johnson stated new infrastructure was installed recently near Lum Park and feels that is a great location for development.

Council Member Badeaux agreed that Lum Park was the location previously discussed and thought the focus was to be on Lum Park with the others as options.

Council discussion took place.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY ALDERMEN BEVANS AND HILGART, DULY CARRIED, TO DIRECT STAFF TO SUBMIT SEPARATE PROPOSALS FOR LUM PARK AND THE BRAINERD PUBLIC LIBRARY BY FRIDAY MAY 3, 2019 AND TO OFFER AS $1 PER YEAR LEASE ON THE SITE CHOSEN.

Adjourn to Workshop Discussion – River to Rail – 7:50 p.m.

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Cassandra Torstenson
City Administrator

April 29, 2019