

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 p.m. Jan. 26
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Jan. 27
- HRA & City Council, 7 p.m. Feb. 1
- Zoning Board of Appeals, 5:30 p.m. Feb. 4

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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 Jan. 19 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

Council gives green light to street projects

The Council approved two more neighborhood street projects for 2010.

Interlachen Circle will be reconstructed and improvements made to the water main, sanitary and storm sewer systems. The project is estimated to cost \$258,600. Special assessments will fund the roadway reconstruction costs and the City will cover utility repairs. The estimated assessment cost, which will be levied in the fall of 2011, is \$9,074 per residential equivalent unit.

Interlachen Bluff will also be reconstructed and utility repairs completed. The street currently has a surmountable curb and gutter. Staff recommended changing the curb and gutter to barrier style in the bulb of the street's cul-de-sac. For cosmetic reasons, neighbors preferred the barrier style be installed on the entire street, a request agreed to by the Council. The estimated special assessment cost, which will fund the roadway reconstruction portion of the project, is \$11,350 per residential equivalent.

Both projects are scheduled to begin in May.

Lifson reappointed to committee

The Council reappointed Alan Lifson to the Community Health Committee for a term ending Feb. 1, 2013. Lifson was appointed to the Committee in November to fill a vacancy.

The Council is expected to make appointments to boards, commissions and committees at its Feb. 1 meeting.

City increases fees

The Council approved ordinance amendments increasing certain fees and charges.

The Council approved new planning fees for 2010. Among the new rates, variance permit fees will now be \$350 for residential and \$600 for commercial projects.

The Council also approved an ordinance amendment increasing utility rates in the Morningside Neighborhood, which receives its water from the City of Minneapolis. Under the new ordinance, the rate is \$2.23 per 100 cubic feet of water.

Council considers refinancing City Hall

The Council called a public hearing with the intention of issuing bonds to refinance City Hall and the Edina Police Department.

The Housing & Redevelopment Authority purchased non-general obligation public project revenue bonds in 2002 to construct the building, which it leases to the City under an annual appropriation lease agreement. In 2003, State legislation – the “CIP Act” – was adopted that allows cities to issue municipal bonds under a specific type of capital improvement plan without the usual referendum requirement. The City used the CIP Act to finance the new fire station and the first phase of the Public Works Facility.

With the current environment of low interest rates, the 2002 bonds are refundable and the City could refinance them as non-general obligation public project revenue bonds or use the CIP Act and refinance as general obligation bonds, improving the expected interest rate on the potential refunding bonds. The difference between the two refinancing methods is estimated to be a present value savings of \$491,426 under public project revenue bonds and \$613,062 using the CIP Act.

The Council agreed to schedule a public hearing with the idea of refinancing under the CIP Act.