

CITY OF MONTEVIDEO
CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
June 12, 2012

The city council met in a worksession at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 in the conference room at city hall. This date/time was set by motion of the council on June 4, 2012 for the purpose of discussing transit issues and other matters.

Council members present: Sandra Hodge, Karen Nieuwebeerta, Marvin Garbe and Bryce Curtiss. Absent: Al Johnsrud. Mayor Debra Lee Fader present.

Also present were City Manager Steven C. Jones, Public Works Director Greg Schwaegerl, Finance Director Jan Flaherty and City Clerk Glennis A. Lauritsen.

Over the past few years, the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, has been putting pressure on cities to consolidate transit systems. Staff had been directed to meet with representatives of Prairie Five to discuss this possibility.

City Manager Jones distributed information he had prepared which discussed possible transit system consolidation and other issues. Jones had outlined financial pros/cons of consolidation, noting an estimated potential overall yearly loss of \$16,900 (which may vary greatly) and a one-time gain in the sale of the buses to Prairie Five (20% of two buses; 100% of one bus - \$35,000-\$45,000).

Jones and Schwaegerl discussed other issues, which included staffing difficulty, necessary and/or required dispatch/other equipment upgrades, use of city mechanic, transit director time, drug testing certification, etc.

Staff noted that if the council would choose to move towards consolidation, Prairie Five requests a quarterly timeframe, i.e., October 1st.

Staff also discussed current service times, noting that the city system begins at 5:30 A.M., whereby Prairie Five starts at 7:00 A.M. In discussions with Prairie Five, however, they indicated a willingness to provide that time slot service initially, with the understanding that it may be dropped if not advantageous. Schwaegerl stated that the 5:30-7:00 A.M. slot would need to be dropped by the city, if the city continues to operate the system, inasmuch as only four (4) riders currently use the bus during this time.

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Following discussion, it was the consensus of the council that staff pursue further negotiations with Prairie Five for consolidation.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

Glennis Lauritsen, Secretary

Approved by council June 18, 2012:

Sandra Hodge, President