

1. Agenda And Packet

Documents:

[FEBRUARY 4, 2019 WORK SESSION AGENDA.PDF](#)

[FEBRUARY 4, 2019 WORK SESSION AGENDA PACKET_REDACTED.PDF](#)

City of Excelsior

City Council Work Session

AGENDA

Monday, February 4, 2019

City Council Chambers

5:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Agenda Approval
3. City Council Interviews
4. Adjournment

Note: The purpose of a Work Session is for the Council to discuss matters informally and in greater detail than is allowed at formal Council meetings. All meetings of the Council including Work Sessions will be open to the public. While the privilege of participating in these discussions is generally limited to the Council, staff, and consultants, the Mayor may open a discussion from the floor.

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MEMORANDUM

Work Session Item 3

Re: City Council Vacancy

Date: February 4, 2019

To: City Council

From: Ann Orlofsky, City Clerk

A Vacancy on the City Council has occurred with Councilmember Carlson being elected Mayor. Residents who were interested in serving on the City Council were asked to submit a letter of interest by 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 30th.

The City received letters of interest from these six residents: Mary Beattie, Louise Dierking, Dave Free, Ann Hersman, Andrew Punch, and Dave Wahlstedt; their letters of interest are included in the Work Session packet.

The vacancy-filing process is governed by Minn. Stat. Sec. 412.02, subd. 2a, which states that:

- The vacancy is filled by appointment by the City Council.
- If there is a tie vote on the appointment, the Mayor may select the person to be appointed and need not choose from among those considered in the tie vote.
- If the vacancy occurs the first two years of a four-year term, the appointee serves until a special election. The special election must be held on or before the next general election. If the city wants to hold a special election before the next general election, it must adopt an ordinance specifying the circumstances under which a special election will be held at some time other than the general election.
- The winner of the special election takes office as soon as he or she is "qualified". (The qualification process ordinarily takes about two weeks after the election.)

January 25, 2019

Dear Mayor Carlson and City Council Members,

I would like to express my interest in filling the vacant Excelsior City Council position.

As a resident of the Lake Minnetonka Community for over 30 years, and a resident of the City of Excelsior for 8 years I am keenly aware of the special issues that affect our community. My expertise as a Real Estate Advisor in the Twin Cities metro area for over 30 years provides a perspective from both seller and buyer points of view, and current trends in the real estate market. All of these are critical to the assessment of issues that impact our City.

My experience in Government includes working on Capitol Hill for Congressman John Melcher (Montana), Senator John Glenn (Ohio), and Senator Wendell Anderson (Minnesota). I understand the complexity of city, state and federal issues as well as the need for due consideration of all points of view from citizens prior to critical decision-making. Additionally, I grew up in Boston and Washington, D.C. While living in areas of the country with strong historic preservation policies I experienced first-hand the impact of such policies. An ability to appreciate the practical and emotional elements of these types of issues is key to good policy decisions. I offer that qualification.

As a community leader my involvement included a six-year tenure as a member of The Board of Governors for The Children's Theatre in Minneapolis. I previously chaired the School Committee of St. Therese School in Deephaven and served as President of the PTO of The Groves School in St. Louis Park.

All of the above experiences provide solid qualifications to fill the City Council vacancy.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter and look forward to discussing my interest further at an interview on February 4th.

Sincerely,

Mary Beattie
198 3rd Street
Excelsior, MN 55331



Ann Orlofsky

From: Dierking, Louise N <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2019 4:25 PM
To: Ann Orlofsky
Subject: council position - personal statement

Hi Ann –

Thanks for receiving my paper application this morning – please accept this as an addendum that further represents my personal statement. My motivation for filing for the open city council position is multi-faceted. There are so many exciting things happening right now in the city, and I feel like we're at a cross-roads where the decisions we make now will chart the future course for the city for years to come. Some of the immediate issues/topics that I think are most pressing include:

- Infrastructure – as the city grows, expands, and adds both residents and commercial businesses, the maintenance and improvement of our infrastructure becomes even more critical. We need to be clear about our priorities, our timelines for scheduled maintenance and our plans for ongoing funding to assure sustainable infrastructure support. Ongoing collaboration with our Chamber of Commerce and business owners will also play a significant role in assuring we have a sustainable and realistic plan.
- Density and development – there is a fine balance between density and development, especially in a city the size of Excelsior with a very limited tax base. While there are many residents with strong opinions and feelings about our development strategy and the broader vision for Excelsior, I think it is up to the city (with constituent input) to chart the course in a way that aligns with a broader vision that also aligns with the comprehensive plan. This creates dynamic tension that is healthy for the ongoing debate, and I look forward to engaging in that debate as a way of coming to even better ways of thinking about our future. The question about overlay or no overlay looms large and should be decided in a way that is best for the city (I'm not sure an overlay district is necessary, but am willing to hear both sides of the issue before deciding). I also think there is opportunity to dig a little deeper when considering development. In reflecting on my experience with the Waters development, it seems like there may have been some opportunities to ask a few more detailed questions – or to do some 'field trip' evaluation to visit the location and see how the plans might actually fit with (or not) the proposed plot. For example, if somebody would have done some quick math around width of street, width of curbs and sidewalks, width of parking, it may have been more evident that not all of those things could co-exist in the current space....thus avoiding some of the more recent stress and frustration. I tend to be experiential in integrating ideas – a field trip that helps bring an idea to life really helps me make better decisions, and may be useful for the council as a whole.
- The future of:
 - East-side neighborhood – on a similar theme around density and development, this part of Excelsior is prime property for further **smart** development. This is a place where it will be important to listen to the neighbors, understand their concerns, and to weigh those against the needs of the city to find common ground. Engaging those interested residents in identifying the most reasonable solution will be difficult but rewarding. I am just starting to get grounded in the various issues at play for this part of town, and am meeting with a group of interested residents on Saturday to better understand their views.
 - Mill street neighborhood – as we look at ways to assure that all parts of Excelsior are connected, this part of Excelsior is facing important issues that will impact many in the neighborhood, both positively and negatively. This part of town tends to be overlooked in many ways, and it will be important to draw residents in, listen to their concerns, and partner on the best way forward
- Transparency and Community Engagement – a hot topic during the elections was ongoing transparency and communication with the community. I heard frequent expression that residents wanted to know more about what was going on in town, decisions the council was making, etc., and to provide their input – more timely. I am aware that there are many ways for residents to engage around this information (public notices, public hearings, etc.) but it seems like there is a sense that the council isn't doing enough to further that transparency

and engagement. I really like the idea of ‘floating’ or ‘rotating’ community engagement activities that get council members out into various neighborhoods on a regular basis and give residents an opportunity to engage in more informal settings – more like fireside chats, or ‘having a beer with a neighbor’. This type of engagement can channel passion into productive activities that serve to gain consensus and make more outspoken folks part of the solution. They also combat the perception that the council makes decisions in isolation.

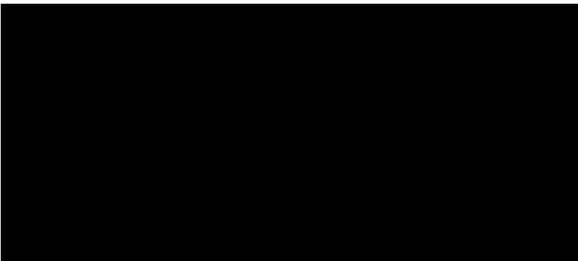
- Partnerships – as Excelsior grows and our needs become more sophisticated, we need to be sure that our partners (consultants, contractors, staff) are growing with us. I think it is time to re-evaluate our partnership relationships, looking for ways we can either challenge current partners to ‘step up their game’ or where it might be time to consider other contributors (ex. Is WSB the right partner for us, or do we need to look at a group that has broader experience and can offer stronger skill sets as we tackle complicated issues). Our staff deserve attention as well to assure that they are continuing to receive the necessary support and coaching to grow as our needs grow. We have a great team, and we need to make sure we’re investing in their futures.

Key skills I would bring to this role and to the council include:

- Contract negotiation and oversight (key as we look at ongoing development and improved partnerships)
- Consensus building (important as we look at continued engagement with the community and various stakeholder groups)
- Visioning (identifying and executing on future vision)
- Business planning and strategic management
- People leadership and coaching for growth
- Extremely curious

Finally, the obvious.....I have been a resident of Excelsior for 19 years, and have loved every minute of it. When my husband first suggested we consider move here (I was living in DT St. Paul), I couldn’t fathom moving to the ‘suburbs’! Little did I know how non-suburban Excelsior is....or how much I would appreciate the sense of community, the ease of access to everything I need, the fact that I can walk to the lake, the grocery store, wonderful restaurants, and the sense of history and charm that have kept us true to who we are. Now is the time when we’re going to have to answer some difficult questions about who/what we want to be when we ‘grow up’, and I want to be part of that process. I bring a unique perspective living outside of ‘the village’, and feel that I can make a material contribution to the conversation. I hope you agree...

Lou



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RECEIVED JAN 11 2019

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Free [REDACTED]
To: toddr Carlson@aol.com <toddr Carlson@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Jan 11, 2019 4:30 pm
Subject: Letter regarding interest in vacated council seat

Todd, I contacted Kristi yesterday via email about my interest in pursuing your vacated council seat. She said that I need to send something to you and the council members. I will try to keep this brief with bullet points. Kristi said that interviews are scheduled for Feb.4th and I will be out of town with a little bit of an unknown return. If that causes a problem I will understand. I can be available Jan 23-25 if that works for all of you. Thanks

Dave Free
216 3rd St. Excelsior 4 1/2 years
5885 Seaman's Dr. Shorewood 14 yrs.

Married to Lori for 34 yrs.
2 children, Michael and Amanda. Both are married and have blessed us with 3 grandchildren, Owen, Liam, and Claire.

Graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College in 1974 with a BA in Psychology and Biology.

Founded Woodrow & Free Sales in 1984. Manufacturers Rep Firm specializing in Target Stores, Best Buy, Menards, and SuperValu.

Partner retired in 1994 to raise her young children and I merged my business with another group in 1996 and formed Synergy Marketing.

Retired in 2014, and after 4 years I would like to find something meaningful to me and our city. We absolutely love living here and I would like to be a part of all the future visions of growth and improvements that we all share.

Please pass this on to the other council members and let me know if you need anything else.

Best,

Dave

January 23, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter of interest from me, as I would like to apply for the vacant council seat.

Thank you,

Ann Hersman

823 Hidden lane

Excelsior, MN 55331

January 16, 2019

City of Excelsior

ATTN: Mayor Carlson

339 3rd St,

Excelsior, MN 55331

RECEIVED JAN 16 2019

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council Members,

I would like to be considered for the open city council seat, however I will be unable to attend the February 4th work session due to a family vacation planned back in August to Disney. I can volunteer 2 years of service to the city in helping the council come to an agreement to what is the best path forward for the city. I have volunteered service to city since moving to town in 2013 first serving on the parks and recreation commission and currently am the city's representative to the LMCD. I am open to scheduling another time for an interview but if that is infeasible with the council's schedule to fill this seat I will state what I can bring to the council in this letter.

The direction that council has indicated is an increase investment in the city parks and choosing what overall purposes the city should use their parks for. The council would benefit from my experience on the park and recreation commission around the issues that have arisen from the dock program, the special events items and the overall purpose of the commons. This also includes the future plans for Studer park and the ongoing mitten pond project. I would also continue my service to the LMCD throughout the term so that council can have a more direct voice with issues upcoming with the LMCD as we begin the discussions to potentially allow commerce to occur on the water.

The other direction that city is going is starting to partner with several nonprofits which I can be a liaison between and how city policy effects each of them. I am currently the treasurer of Excelsior Masonic Lodge and can speak to how changes along water street, parking and maintenance effect property owners and visitor interactions. I also am a member of the Lake Minnetonka Excelsior Chamber of Commerce, have several personal relationships with our business owners in town along with volunteering at numerous events. I am a member of the Lake Minnetonka Excelsior Rotary Club which has currently entered in a partnership to run the concerts in the commons and can provide direct feedback to what is and is not working for the residents and the concerts. Lastly, I am a lifetime member of the Community for the Commons and want to make sure the city keeps that organization and the master plan front of mind and accelerate the conservatories effort.

In closing, I have stated in the past my goal is find how we, as a community and hopefully a council, can determine how to best work together and best agree. The direction the town goes in over the next two years needs to ensure that residents, businesses and our visitors are heard, discussed, challenged and ultimately agreed to the best course of action for the city.

Your Neighbor,

Andrew Punch

CC Councilperson Miller, Councilperson Caron, Councilperson Kurschner, City Clerk Orlofksy

From: Dave Wahlstedt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2019 10:56 AM
To: Ann Orlofsky <aorlofsky@excelsiormn.org>
Subject: Re: P&R Term Expiration

Dave Wahlstedt
371 Water St
Bird House Inn Bed & Breakfast

Thanks for the opportunity to be considered for the upcoming city council appointment. I am a 16-year business owner in Excelsior and 7-year resident. Gretchen and I, our two kids, one dog and three cats all live at the Bird House Inn on Water St which we now run full-time. Before moving to Excelsior I worked professionally as an engineer in the medical device industry and served on the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association board and Bryn Mawr Garden Club in Minneapolis. I have served on several small company boards and political committees, as well. Since moving to Excelsior about 7 years ago, I have focused my civic involvement on city government - a couple years as the Excelsior citizen representative on the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission and the last four years on the Excelsior Parks Commission. I love Excelsior and its history and have enjoyed being able to do my part to help keep it thriving. If the council thinks I might be an asset as an appointed member, I'd be happy to serve in that capacity. I very much appreciate the Council's goal of coming to unanimous agreement on a candidate - that makes it much more appealing to me coming in! I believe strongly in seeing the value of all sides of an issue and trying to find creative solutions that honor what is important from each perspective and get everyone on board. I think the path the city has forged for the Commons with energetic, positive collaboration between the city, Parks Commission, Chamber of Commerce, and other groups, and engagement with the community as a whole is an inspiring example of that. With the wise start of finding unanimity around a candidate to fill the vacancy on the council, I think you are on the right track to bring that same energy to the other issues that challenge the city. I'm sure you have many good candidates and only want to offer myself as one more for your consideration - I'm sure you'll find a good person for the job!

Dave
[REDACTED]