

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Tchourumoff, Melander, Munt, Schreiber, Elkins, Dorfman, Rummel, Commers, Rodriguez, Letofsky, Barber, Reynoso, Wulff, Kramer, Chávez, McCarthy

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Tchourumoff called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:00PM on Wednesday, November 7, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Wulff to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Kramer to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Election Results Update

Judd Schetnan presented on the election results. DFL candidate Tim Walz won the gubernatorial election, with Peggy Flanagan as his Lieutenant Governor. The DFL will take a 75-59 majority in the State House, which is a change from the current 77-57 Republican majority. The Republicans will retain a 34-33 majority in the State Senate. Keith Ellison won the race for Attorney General, Julie Blaha won the race for State Auditor, and Steve Simon won the race for Secretary of State. Amy Klobuchar (DFL) and Tina Smith (DFL) will continue to represent MN in the U.S. Senate. U.S. Congress seats are as follows: 1st Jim Hagedorn (R), 2nd Angie Craig (DFL), 3rd Dean Phillips (DFL), 4th Betty McCollum (DFL), 5th Ilhan Omar (DFL), 6th Tom Emmer (R), 7th Collin Peterson (DFL), 8th Pete Stauber (R). Governor-elect Walz will choose the next Council Chair and the next Council must be seated by March 4, 2019.

Unsheltered on Transit – HAT Update

MTPD Chief John Harrington provided an update on the work with unsheltered communities. The Homeless Action Team (HAT) makes an average of 108 contacts per night and works to provide services for the most vulnerable. In 4 days, 103 individuals were placed into a Winter Safe Space. Next steps will include recruiting case workers and street outreach workers and creating a crime prevention and education plan for service providers and riders.

Twin Cities Rents and Payments Standards Discussion

Terri Smith, Heather Agesen-Huebner, and Joel Huting presented on this topic. In recent years, housing production has lagged population growth, rental vacancy rates have been below healthy levels, and rent prices have grown faster than inflation. The two main areas of budget concern are the rising housing subsidy payment cost and the administrative deficit. Payment standards (rent limits) are limited by Fair Market Rents (FMR) set by HUD; Housing Authorities must set rent limits between 90%-110% of FMR by bedroom size. Tenants pay between 30-40% of their income towards rent. There is a housing voucher deficit due to rising housing costs and federal revenue not keeping pace with rent. Potential solutions include subsidizing the program with other Council funds, reducing vouchers through attrition, reducing cost through reduced community choice, or securing alternate funding source(s). The Council members discussed the various scenarios presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:55PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary