

**City Council Workshop
November 16, 2021
Council Chambers
7:43 PM**

COUNCILORS PRESENT

Councilor Abbott
Councilor Beaudoin
Councilor Bogan
Councilor Fontneau
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hailey
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Hunt-Hawkins
Councilor Hutchinson
Councilor Lachapelle
Councilor Rice
Councilor Walker
Mayor Lauterborn

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, City Manager
Katie Ambrose, Deputy City Manager
Terence O'Rourke, City Attorney
Dana Berlin, resident
Shanna Saunders, Planning Director
Tim Wilder, Assistant Fire Chief

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lauterborn called the City Council Workshop to order at 7:43 PM. Deputy City Clerk Cassie Givara had taken a silent roll call prior to the Public Hearing preceding the workshop. All Councilors were present (Councilors Beaudoin and Fontneau were sworn in prior to the meeting.)

2. Public Input

No discussion.

3. Communications from the City Manager

City Manager Cox reported that the Chamber of Commerce recently hosted their annual awards banquet and he shared the awards given.

4. Communications from the Mayor

4.1 Presentation of honorary gavels to former Rochester mayors

Deputy Mayor Walker presented honorary gavels to former Mayor Walter Hoermann, who served from 2001 – 2003, and former Mayor John Larochelle who served from 2006 – 2010. Mayor Lauterborn presented an honorary gavel to Deputy Mayor Walker, who served as Mayor from 2004 – 2006.

Mayor Lauterborn read a proclamation declaring Saturday, November 26 as “Small Business Saturday.”

Mayor Lauterborn informed Council that there are multiple sets of non-public minutes which need to be voted on at the December 7, 2021 Council meeting to be unsealed. She asked each Councilor to review these minutes and indicate whether they would like them unsealed.

Mayor Lauterborn reported that there would not be a December 21, 2021 Council workshop meeting unless there is an extenuating circumstance where it becomes necessary to meet prior to the new Council being seated. She stated that the December 7, 2021 Regular City Council meeting would be the last full Council meeting of the year.

Mayor Lauterborn announced that the Rochester Holiday Parade would take place on Sunday, December 5 at 3:00 PM. She invited Councilors to walk in the parade if they wished.

5. Discussion: Tebbetts Road renumbering

Councilor Gray referenced the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis which had been presented at a prior meeting in regards to the Tebbetts Road renumbering. He spoke about the need to identify the threats and then prioritize the items in order to mitigate those of highest importance. One of the issues identified was potential confusion for first responders in locating locations of emergencies. Councilor Gray stated that the City Ordinances currently require each house to display a house number visible from the road. He felt that enforcing this ordinance would be a solution to a portion of the problem being presented. He spoke about several other potential drawbacks or problems with the proposed renumbering options.

Councilor Fontneau inquired if there has been follow up with the streets which have been renamed or renumbered in the past several years to see how the process has worked and if there are any issues. He spoke about a property he owns on the

previously renamed Main Street in East Rochester, which is now Portland Street. He spoke about the continued difficulties with utility companies and delivery services in locating and servicing the property, even years after the renaming and renumbering occurred. Councilor Fontneau referenced comments that had been made during public input and inquired if the systems used are still based on landlines. He suggested a survey to see which percentage of the population still uses landlines.

Councilor Rice shared experience based on work in the emergency communications field and how callers are located accurately using geocoding based on the numbers they are calling from, landline or mobile. He urged Council to look at the whole picture and consider the solution being proposed as it is presented as opposed to taking a piecemeal approach to the issue. Councilor Rice asked if the City Council had ever denied a street renaming or renumbering. Assistant Chief Wilder stated that the City Council had not denied a renumbering or renaming since he had been the chairperson of the E911 Committee. Councilor Rice cautioned that if Council were to deny this proposal for renumbering, it could set a precedent going forward and cause issues with future streets in need of review. Assistant Chief Wilder agreed that any decision made for Tebbetts Road could have a resounding effect on future renumbering for other streets. He stated that Rochester may need to review how they go about renumbering and renaming and potentially consider their own system outside of the State guidelines. He reiterated that delaying this decision could cause dire effects for timelines within the Planning department as well as the Fire department, who are reliant on the renumbering for their processes.

Councilor Hamann reminded Council that the reason the Tebbetts Road renumbering was originally brought up was due to a 5-unit development, which was unable to be move forward due to lack of available numbers in the area of Tebbetts Road in which it was being constructed. This development is still waiting to move forward due to the numbering issue not being resolved. Councilor Hamann also referenced Anthony Deluca's comments during public input regarding 50-foot stationing and how that would affect consecutive house numbering for those with more than 50-foot frontage on their properties. Councilor Hamann stated that each 50-feet would be assigned a new number regardless of how many feet of frontage a resident owns; so houses would not be consecutive numbers, but rather numbers based on how many feet apart they are located. Director Saunders agreed that the 50-foot stationing takes care of any future development and leaves numbers available for this purpose. She stated that the house numbering is based on the road station at which the property's driveway is located, based on State guidelines. She said that with the 50-foot road stationing, there would not be any need for future renumbering regardless of subdivisions and future development because these numbers will already be in place.

Councilor Walker inquired if, based on statements made earlier by Councilor

Fontneau regarding difficulties with his renumbered/renamed property, if Portland Street had been numbered backwards when it was done several years earlier. Assistant Chief Wilder stated that the numbering had not been reversed and that the issues he experienced could be related to individual GPS software. Councilor Walker suggested that the Planning Department should start looking into approving more private drives to avoid having to renumber entire roads for new developments. Director Saunders cautioned that if private roads are approved for each small development of only 2-3 homes, this could lead to hundreds of new private roads within the City.

Mayor Lauterborn stated that this item has been on the Council agenda since spring and said it is the current Council's responsibility to resolve the issue before the new Council is seated. She advised Council to review, and request any additional information as needed prior to the vote on December 7.

6. Department Reports

No discussion.

7. Other

No discussion.

8. Adjournment

Mayor Lauterborn **ADJOURNED** the City Council Workshop at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara
Deputy City Clerk