

CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2025

1. Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

- Mayor Lawrence called the Clearwater City Council to order Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Members present were Mayor Lawrence, Council Members Crandall, and Everett. Member Senn arrived at 6:19 p.m. Member Schwinghammer was absent. Also present was City Administrator Smythe and guests Tom Plaggerman and Bud Stimmler.

2. T.H. 24 Corridor Project Discussion

- Administrator Smythe explained that staff were looking for feedback on questions from MnDot for Phases 1 & 3 of the project, which were previously approved by the City Council.
 - Smythe explained that MnDot proposes to use fencing along the I94 bridge that is MnDot standard and would match the fencing on the Mississippi River bridge. Members discussed and had no issues with this plan.
 - Smythe noted that Members had previously discussed having upgraded trail lighting along the corridor. Staff shared photos with MnDot of the city lights in Cedar South. MnDot has something similar that could be used. The upgrades would be at city costs. Members like the idea of upgraded lighting with a cohesive plan for the city. They would like to color-match the city logo if possible. Members asked staff to bring this feedback to MnDot and ask about costs.
 - Smythe outlined the options to either have the city's name on the bridge itself overlooking I94 or having signage for the off-ramps. The city has to choose; it can't have both. Members prefer the city name on the bridge.
 - Smythe asked if Members had any preferences for plantings or other ideas for the medians in the roundabout areas. Members discussed native plantings, bushes, sculptures, along with the drawbacks and costs of maintenance. Members would like MnDot to outline what options are feasible and revisit at a future meeting.

Member Senn arrived at 6:19 p.m. and joined the discussion in progress.

- Smythe explained that because the City Council voted down the proposed design of Phase 2, MnDot has created a new design that has a transition area from the bridge interchange (Phase 1) into the existing infrastructure (Phase 2 area) and shared the layout.
- Members considered and discussed both the new transition plan and the original Phase 2 design, along with the following issues/concerns:
 - Members were concerned about merging four lanes down to two lanes before the stoplights at County Road 75 and the traffic backups that may result.
 - Members wondered if it would be possible to have roundabouts at both County Road 75 and Smith Street and what impact that would have to traffic flows.
 - Members continue to have concerns about access to the Clearwater Travel Plaza.
 - Members continue to have concerns about accessibility to T.H. 24 of residents from the neighborhood of 106th St in Clear Lake Township.
 - Members wondered if T.O. Plastics' concerns could be addressed with a new access to their parking lot from County Road 75.
 - Members believed the residents in the northeast neighborhood near T.O. Plastics would likely become accustomed to using Manor Drive as their primary access/exit point but

acknowledged that they would also likely use any access to County Road 75 created for T.O. Plastics.

- Members wondered if it would be possible to extend the four lanes in the transition plan all the way to the stoplight at County Road 75 and merge to two lanes after the light.
 - Members wanted to know what the timeframe was for creating an alternative for Phase 2 and what the funding options are.
- Members directed staff to bring this feedback to MnDot and see if they are still open to working with the city to create another design alternative for Phase 2.

3. Adjournment

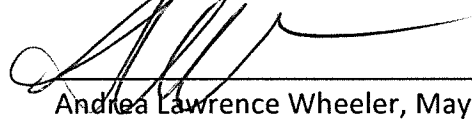
- **MOTION** to adjourn by Mayor Lawrence, seconded by Senn, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**
- Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

ATTEST



Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator

APPROVED



Andrea Lawrence Wheeler, Mayor