

**Becker City Council / Becker Township Board Joint Workshop
March 17, 2021**

Attendance: Mayor Tracy Bertram; Council Members: Rick Hendrickson, Robin Dingmann, Mike Doering, and Becky Olmscheid; City Administrator Greg Pruszinske Public Services Director Phil Knutson, Community Development Director Marie Pflipsen, City Clerk Julie Blesi, and Deputy Clerk Susan Nache; Becker Township Board Members: Brian Kolbinger, Brad Wilkening, Joe Danielson, Luke Babler, and Robin Boros; Township Clerk Lucinda Messman, Township Planner Ben Wikstrom, and Township Attorney Kelli Bourgeois.

City Administrator, Greg Pruszinske, called the March 17, 2021 Becker City Council / Becker Township Board Joint Workshop to order at 5:00 p.m. Introductions of those in attendance were made.

Public Services Director, Phil Knutson, gave an overview of the estimated costs of including municipal solid waste (MSW) collection to the annual Recycling Day event. He noted that the cost just to have five trucks there would be \$900 per truck or \$4,500 plus an additional \$95 per ton collected. Staff estimated the cost at almost \$12,500.00. He noted staff had contacted neighboring communities to see if they provided MSW collection with only Santiago indicating they did. There was discussion on using roll-offs instead of trucks. It was also mentioned about looking into a possible collaboration with Santiago for MSW collection. Staff would look into the costs of using roll-offs, however, this year's event would continue as planned with recycling only. City Council also asked if the Becker Township Board members would help at the event as well since it was supposed to be a collaborative event.

Next, Community Development Director, Marie Pflipsen, gave a little background on the Central Mississippi River Regional Planning Partnership (CMRP) and then shared the City's main concerns with the group. These concerns included confusion about the direction of the group, what did regional planning mean and was it heading toward a Metropolitan Council type of group, and the current partnership organization and regulatory by-laws and joint powers agreement. There was a lot of discussion on these issues with the Township Board sharing the same concerns. There was discussion on whether Becker was the only coalition member that had these concerns or if there were other members that did as well. There was also discussion about how to address these concerns including the possibility of drafting a joint letter from the City and Township and what it should say, and the possibility of putting the concerns on the next CMRP agenda.

Mr. Pruszinske gave a brief background on the proposed solar projects and the City's concerns about them. These concerns included restricted growth of the Becker Business Park, stranded assets, and tax revenue. The Township Board had met with representatives for the proposed solar project and relayed that it did not go very well, and they also had concerns about the projects. The main concerns were the location of the solar projects and their impact on future growth and road corridors for both the City and the Township. There was discussion about what the City and Township, respectively, were trying to accomplish, what they were thinking of doing to address their concerns and attempt to attain the goals, and the process for doing so. The Township asked for the City's help and guidance with addressing their concerns.

With no further comments, Mr. Pruszinske adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Susan Nache
Susan Nache, Deputy Clerk

Brian Kolbinger
Brian Kolbinger - Town Board Chair

6/21/2021
Date Town Board
adopted

Lucinda Messman
Lucinda Messman Town Clerk