

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
2215 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA 55431

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Approved Minutes
Special Meeting
Meeting #19a

6:00 p.m.
August 20, 2001
Council Chamber

Call to Order

Mayor Gene Winstead called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Winstead, Councilmembers D. Abrams, M. Fossum, H. Harden, A. Ornat, S. Peterson, and V. Wilcox.

Ankeny Kell
Presentation of
Council Chamber
Design

Mark Wentzell, Ankeny Kell Architects presented design drawings of the dias for the new council chambers. He described it as seating for 10 people with a ramp up one side and a step on the other side and is proposed to be 10 inches lower than the present one. It was shown with a center podium equipped with an overhead camera that would be flat to allow for presentations from both sides. The design included a lower podium next to the dias that would accommodate staff presenting to Council also equipped with an overhead camera. This podium would be at table height to accommodate handicapped individuals in a wheelchair. Extended beyond the dias would be a table to accommodate three staff people, including the Chief of Police. Wentzell showed the seating in the chambers set up for 116 chairs but stated that it could easily be increased by another 20 chairs. The seating design was in long continuous rows with no center aisle. He suggested that it might be better to split those long rows and insert a center aisle.

Describing the interior of the room, Wentzell stated it would be a mixture of wood and fabric paneling. He stated that the words, "City of Bloomington" would appear on the curved wall behind the council members. He explained that a rear projection screen would be located in the wall behind the dias that would allow the audience to see the visual presentation. Ten individual monitors would be recessed into the top of the dias to allow individual viewing of what's being presented at the podium rather than having to look at one screen down on the floor. Monitors would also be available on the staff table for their viewing. The drawing illustrated that the three flag poles would be located just inside the door in front of the curtained window.

Ornat suggested that a more prominent space of honor should be designated for the displaying of the flags rather than at the back of the room.

The council workroom and a restroom would be located right behind the dias for easy access by the council members and staff. The workroom would contain a coat rack, sink, small refrigerator, telephone, and a small round conference table.

Ornat inquired about the availability of personal lockers for council members and suggested that there be a space for each member tall enough to accommodate a coat and large enough to hold personal belongings. She also suggested a drop down footstool under the dias.

Abrams inquired about the need to make sure that the council members' names appear directly in front of their position on the dias as the current setup makes it difficult to identify who's talking depending on the camera angles.

Winstead commented that the Metropolitan Airports Commission hearing room has a very nice and functional podium and suggested that the designers take a look.

To respond to Fossum's inquiry as to the availability of a semi-formal space available for council members to meet with two or three of their constituents, Wentzell suggested the department conference rooms could be used, as they are accessible from the public and because no specific conference room has been designated for that purpose. He suggested the council workroom could be used for meeting with constituents if the Council so desired. It was also suggested that the Mayor's Office could be used for small meetings.

Chamber Design
Discussion continued

Peterson suggested that the following also be considered: placement of table near the entrance to the chambers for materials for public, table space for presenters on both sides of an issue to organize their materials, design of hallway space outside chambers for public to congregate or wait for their item to be called. He also stated that he would not like to see the dais any higher than it is currently. He requested that the space in front of each council member at the dais be wide enough to accommodate a notebook computer next to the monitor. He expressed his concern about minimizing the reverberation in the chamber and Wentzell assured Council that it would be the quietest space in the building. He mentioned the need for a clock in chambers also.

Winstead suggested that a curtain be installed that could be pulled to hide the dais during presentations, etc. similar to what Burnsville has done.

Wentzell added that the front of the dais could be constructed out of Kevlar to provide the Council with a shield of protection. He also explained that there would be large windows to make the Council visible from outside the building and that there would be two window coverings for those windows, a sheer curtain to control glare from the sun and a blackout screen to darken the room.

Will Craig, Ellert & Associates spoke about the multimedia needs of the new building. He described the following proposed multimedia and audiovisual equipment: Individual inset personal monitors with built-in speakers, gooseneck style microphones at each individual seat, boxes containing cable wires would be located between council members to allow them to plug in their laptops, etc. The podium would also have a preview monitor, microphone, and an input connection for a laptop computer, and an overhead camera. At the staff/presentation table to the left of the dais, an overhead camera as well as a VCR would be available so someone could play a video without taking it to the control room. Regarding the broadcast cameras, Craig stated that the existing JBC cameras would be incorporated into the new chambers, therefore, no new camera expenditures would be necessary. He stated that the rear projection screen would provide images large enough to be seen from the majority of the seats in the chamber and that a 24 pt. Power Point presentation should be easily seen from the last row of seats. Regarding the control room, Craig stated that robotic cameras located throughout the building would be controlled from the control room which would allow meetings, etc. in those other rooms to be broadcast or to provide recordings in those areas, i.e. for training. He stated that monitors and a sound system would be available in the lobby area that could also provide background music during the day.

To answer Winstead's inquiry about additional screens for the audience, Craig explained that flat-screened displays could be added in the future but right now they are very costly and provide a low resolution. He stated that the current TV monitors could be placed on carts and used as additional viewing screens in the chamber if they were deemed necessary. As part of the base audio system, devices for the hearing impaired would be available also. He explained that personal laptop computers would not be provided but council members could hook one up so that they could communicate with one another during the meeting.

Clark Arneson, Planning Manager requested that Council let him know about their desires regarding the official groundbreaking that will be coming up. He requested that Council provide feedback to Carolyn Lane regarding the invitation list, etc. Winstead suggested that the Task Force, City Commission Members, School Board Members, Chamber of Commerce, public, etc. be included in this event. A tent for shelter and background music provided by one of the Arts groups was suggested by Council.

He also mentioned that staff would be sharing the most recent cost estimates from Mortenson with Council at the next meeting and that the Arts Center piece is still over budget and that the Arts people are being made aware of that also. He stated that Susan Anderson could provide Council with their latest fund-raising efforts at the next Council meeting. He explained that the three main changes are that the stage trap has now been added into the base bid, which increased it \$30,000, the seating has increased \$20,000, and the ADA required exit points that go down into the orchestra pit area has added program space to their space program, adding cost also.

Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Winstead adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Barbara Clawson
Council Secretary