

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 27, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh at 7:00 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers with the following Aldermen present: Roger E. Nelson, Bob Petrich, Lyle Ten Haken, Mike Woll; and Honorary Council person Jayne Johnson. Absent (Excused): Leland Hain.

City Staff present: Mike Cumiskey, Police Chief; Jason Beckmann, Police Sgt.; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development; Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering; and Karen Buchman, City Clerk.

Others present: Daryl Stitt, KWOA Radio; Ryan McGaughey, Daily Globe; Steve Robinson, SEH; George Calebaugh, Senior Transportation Engineer, SEH (Consultant for MnDOT); Peter Harff, Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation; Mark Scheidel, Transportation Planner, Minnesota Department of Transportation; Darlene Macklin, Chamber of Commerce; and Glenn Thuringer, WREDC.

INTRODUCTION OF HONORARY COUNCIL PERSON

Mayor Oberloh introduced Jayne Johnson as the Honorary Council Person for the months of March and April.

AGENDA APPROVED

The motion was made by Alderman Ten Haken, seconded by Alderman Woll and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of G.5 Appointment to Nobles County EDA Exploration Committee.

MINUTES APPROVED

The motion was made by Alderman Woll, seconded by Alderman Petrich and unanimously carried to approve the regular City Council minutes of March 13, 2006 as previously distributed.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The motion was made by Alderman Petrich, seconded by Alderman Woll and unanimously carried to accept for review the Water and Light Commission minutes of March 20, 2006; Downtown Parking Advisory Board minutes of March 7, 2006; and Traffic and Safety minutes of March 22, 2006.

T.H. 59 FROM OXFORD STREET TO I-90 TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has contracted with the consulting firm of SEH to study and evaluate the current and projected traffic on TH 59 from Oxford Street to I-90 (North Humiston Avenue), TH-59 frontage roads, and Ryan's Road. The purpose of the initial phase of the work

was to project the extent and nature of potential congestion problems. A second phase of the project is to be initiated if the initial work shows a need to develop a plan to address traffic demands. The results of the initial phase of the work and proposal of an approach for proceeding with the second phase of the project was presented to Council by George Calebaugh, Senior Transportation Engineer, SEH (Consultant for MnDOT); Peter Harff, Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation; Mark Scheidel, Transportation Planner, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

A tentative schedule, options, and suggestions for an overview committee were presented.

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS IN CITY PARKS

The motion was made by Alderman Woll, seconded by Alderman Petrich and unanimously carried to give a first reading to the proposed ordinance to amend Title IX of the City Code by amending Chapter 93 Parks and Recreation, Section 93.20 Enforcement.

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSITION OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

The motion was made by Alderman Woll, seconded by Alderman Ten Haken and unanimously carried to give a first reading to the proposed ordinance to Establish Guidelines for the Disposition of Abandoned Property held by the Police Department.

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT APPROVED

Due to City Administrator Bob Filson's illness, Council and staff met with Mr. William Bassett, retired City Manager for the City of Mankato, about filling in as interim administrator. Mr. Bassett, Mayor Oberloh, and City Attorney Mark Shepherd met with Bob Filson to work out the details of an agreement as presented. Following a discussion on this agreement the motion was made by Alderman Petrich, seconded by Alderman Ten Haken and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor and Clerk's signatures.

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE - VACATE A PORTION OF ALLEY IN THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON

The motion was made by Alderman Ten Haken, seconded by Alderman Woll and unanimously carried to give a second reading to the proposed ordinance to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way (alley) located directly north of the Worthington High School Athletic Complex between Oslo Street and the north/south alley formerly known as 13th Street.

APPROVED REQUEST FOR STUDY PROPOSAL

In working toward achieving the goals and objectives of the City's 2005-2009 Housing Plan, City staff has had conversation with the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMHP) about the exploration of alternative housing options for "hard to house" tenants. With the implementation of a minimum housing standard, staff anticipates the number of "hard to house" tenants to increase due to illegal housing/rooming units. The motion was made by Alderman Woll, seconded by Alderman Petrich and unanimously carried to approve the draft letter requesting the SWMHP to submit a proposal for its services for the study to determine the market, possible location(s), estimated costs, potential funding sources, and ownership options.

APPROVED LABOR CONTRACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES LOCAL 274-SUPERVISORS

The motion was made by Alderman Nelson, seconded by Alderman Ten Haken and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the labor contract with the Law Enforcement Labor Services Local 274 - Supervisors. This contract is similar to the Local #4 Law Enforcement Labor Services which provides for a three-year agreement and contains the "meet and confer" language pertaining to the employee family health premium health contribution.

APPOINTMENT TO NOBLES COUNTY EDA EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

The Nobles County Board of Commissioners is considering granting its current HRA economic development authority for the purpose of enabling the County to have additional options for financing Economic Development projects. Minnesota Statute requires the County to appoint an exploration committee to recommend the organizational changes to the Board of Commissioners. The City of Worthington has been requested to appoint a person to represent the political subdivision on the exploration committee. The motion was made by Alderman Ten Haken, seconded by Alderman Woll and unanimously carried to appoint Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development to the Nobles County EDA Exploration Committee.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Oberloh reported on a meeting he and Mike Woll had with Jorge Lopez of the Housing Partnership. He noted that Representative Gutknecht was in town last week. He reported that Senator Vickerman and Rep. Rod Hamilton had informed him that there were 167 grant applications sent in by political subdivisions and they were all thrown out.

Alderman Petrich - reported at the last Water and Light Commission meeting they discussed the excessive grease buildups from restaurants along Oxford Street. They would all be sent letters to tell them they have to do a better job of monitoring. Also, the Utilities office has started some auto read routes for meter readers. This will be a time saver.

Alderman Nelson - no committee report, but he did a walk through at the airport and it is nearing completion. The Public Work's Department guys are doing a great job and it is looking very nice.

Alderman Woll - Traffic and Safety Committee discussed school parking permits and they recommended to not move forward with that suggestion. Chamber Board - Brad discussed housing issues. Mike, and the Mayor visited about an event center with the Chamber.

Alderman Ten Haken, had no report to make at this time.

BILLS PAYABLE

The motion was made by Alderman Petrich, seconded by Alderman Woll and unanimously carried that bills payable and totaling \$565,551.80 be ordered paid.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Alderman Woll, seconded by Alderman Ten Haken and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Karen Buchman
City Clerk