

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 23, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following Council Members present: Scott Nelson, Diane Graber, Larry Janssen, Mike Harmon, Rod Sankey. Honorary Council Member: Amy Ernst.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk; Brett Wilttrout, Public Safety Department; Kris Hohensee, Managing Director Center for Active Living.

Others present: Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe; Justine Wettschreck, KWOA; Todd Frager, Northland Cinema; Anna Raetz; Zachariah Martinez; Isabela Cherry; Kevin Donovan; Jason Vote; Darlene Macklin, Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER

Mayor Kuhle presented Amy Ernst with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service as Honorary Council Member for the months of September, October and November, 2015. Ms. Ernst thanked Council for the opportunity, and noted it was a good experience.

AGENDA CLOSED/APPROVED WITH ADDENDUM

Staff requested additions to the agenda of item E.5 - *Discussion with Todd Frager - Northland Cinema* and the addition of item E.6 - Change of Date for Holiday Parade Street Closure to the agenda.

The motion was made by Council Member Graber, seconded by Council Member Sankey and unanimously carried to close/approve the agenda with the additions as requested.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

The motion was made by Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Harmon and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- City Council Minutes of Special Meeting November 4, 2015; City Council Minutes of Regular Meeting November 9, 2015; City Council/Nobles County Commission Minutes of Special Joint Meeting November 16, 2015
- Minutes of Boards and Commissions - Water and Light Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting November 9, 2015; Worthington Economic Development Authority Minutes of November 9, 2015; Center for Active Living Committee Minutes of November 9, 2015; NEON Committee Minutes of October 8, 2015; Worthington Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors Minutes of September 30, 2015; Heron Lake Watershed Board

- of Directors Minutes of September 15, 2015; Worthington Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board Minutes of Regular Meeting October 13, 2015
- Municipal Liquor Store Income Statement for the Period January 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015
 - Additional 2016 License Renewals:
 - Off-Sale Beer - Walmart Stores, Inc. - Walmart Super Center #2820, 1055 Ryan's Road
 - On-Sale Beer - El Taco Restaurant, Jose Maldonado, 420 Tenth Street
 - Approved the City as Fiscal Agent for an Art Legacy Project Grant through the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council for the proposed Crailsheim Bridge Sculpture
 - Bills payable and totaling \$913,214.01 be ordered paid

MAAP STARS PRESENTATION AND INVITATION

Anne Raetz, English Teacher and Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs - Success, Teamwork, Achievement, Recognition and Self Esteem (MAAP STARS) Advisor at the Worthington Area Learning Center, and Zachariah Martinez and Isabela Cherry, students at the ALC, were at the meeting and spoke to Council about the ALC, the MAAP STARS Leadership organization and what it has done for them - they want to change the perception that ALC kids are bad kids. The group will be hosting a viewing of the movie "Paper Tigers", which tells the story about ALC students at Lincoln High School in Walla Walla, Washington. The viewing will be at 7:00 p.m. on December 3rd at the Minnesota West Theater. Council was invited to attend the viewing and listen to the individual stories of the students who will be speaking there.

REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP - BOUNTIFUL BASKETS FOOD COOP

Council considered a proposed agreement with Bountiful Baskets Food Coop that would allow the Coop to distribute filled orders for fresh produce, purchased directly from farmers, from the Center for Active Living. Several Council Members expressed concern that it would put the City in the position of competing with the local stores, and noted that we require our other farmers market participants to be registered. In response to a question from Council, Kris Hohensee, Managing Director of the CAL, said Bountiful Baskets is a non-profit group, and there would be no fees collected from them. There would be no liability to the City.

The motion was made by Council Member Harmon and seconded by Council Member Nelson to approve a six-month trial partnership with Bountiful Baskets Food Coop for food distribution at the Center for Active Living, with the following Council Members voting in favor of the motion: Nelson, Graber, Harmon; and the following Council Members voting against the same: Janssen, Sankey. Motion carried.

NON-APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR PRAIRIE VIEW GOLF COURSE

Based on Council consensus at the October 28, 2015 Special City Council meeting, staff was requesting that Council take official action to not budget or appropriate funds for Prairie View Golf Links in fiscal year 2016.

The motion was made by Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Sankey and unanimously carried to discontinue funding and close the Prairie View Golf Course, that the City should move forward with plans to sell or auction all golf course equipment to include the irrigation system, and that the City will put together a committee, to include several City Council persons, to determine the best future land usage with emphasis on water quality.

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND STORM WATER UTILITY RATES

At their November 9, 2015 meeting, Council approved the 2016 Storm Water budget and also gave a first reading to a proposed ordinance relating to storm water utility rates as follows:

SECTION I.

Worthington City Code, Title V, Chapter 54, Section 54.04 (C), is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

(C) The annual fee per acre for residential is \$243.00.

However, City Charter requires that within one week of the reading, notification of the proposed ordinance pending before Council be published in the official newspaper. The publication was overlooked, therefore, staff was requesting that Council once again give a first reading to the proposed ordinance. The second and third readings and subsequent adoption will be completed at the December regular City Council meetings, with the ordinance scheduled to take effect January 1, 2016.

The motion was made by Council Member Sankey, seconded by Council Member Nelson and unanimously carried to give a first reading to the proposed ordinance amending storm water utility rates.

DISCUSSION WITH TODD FRAGER - NORTHLAND CINEMA

Todd Frager, owner of the Northland Cinema, had requested time to speak to Council regarding the closing of the Northland Cinema and the stalled plans for completion of a new theater by Brian Pellowski, owner of the Northland Mall. Mr. Frager said the delay caused by the City is not only costing him money, but risks the possibility of Worthington not having a theater at all - and the negative article in the paper wasn't helping anything either. He wanted to know if the City was still

intending to work with Brian Pellowski, and, if the City was planning on working with other developers not on the mall site, who were they - would TIF benefit him like with the mall? Mayor Kuhle said the City was still working with PBK and that we're now waiting for the third party assessment that Mr. Pellowski requested. He also stated that it was PBK that closed the mall, not the City of Worthington. When asked if he would work with another group for a theater if one came forward, Mr. Frager replied that he is currently still working with Brian. He expressed concern that there was posturing by the City so it doesn't look bad if it doesn't work. Mayor Kuhle reminded Mr. Frager that the City had provided a \$1.2 million loan to Mr. Pellowski that allowed him to purchase the mall from the previous owner, and has worked all summer to come up with something to make this work. We've worked hard with bond counsel - we've just set some boundaries is all. Mr. Frager said he has an important meeting next Tuesday and would be making a decision after that. Council Member Sankey said he was disappointed that the theater is closed, but the ball is in PBK's court.

RESCHEDULE OF STREET CLOSURE FOR HOLIDAY PARADE APPROVED

At their November 9, 2015 meeting, Council approved the following street closure for the Holiday Parade scheduled for Friday, November 20th, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.:

1st Avenue from 10th Street to 11th Street
10th Street from 1st Avenue to 5th Avenue

3rd Avenue from 10th Street to Park Lane and bank drive-thru
4th Avenue from 10th Street to Park Lane and Panda House

Due to inclement weather, the celebration was rescheduled to Tuesday, December 1, 2015. Staff was requesting Council approval of the change of date for the street closure for the Holiday Parade.

The motion was made by Council Member Harmon, seconded by Council Member Graber and unanimously carried to approve the change in date for the street closure to December 1, 2015 for the rescheduled Holiday Parade.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Kuhle - Reported on the CGMC conference he attended in Alexandria - there is a big push on to restore LGA levels to what they were in 2002. He attended a Citizenship workshop on Saturday, 17 people were there.

Council Member Nelson - Attended the joint City/County meeting last Monday. HRA met last Tuesday - 7 units are still available in the new complex - the per unit build cost is \$134,830. They came within one-half % of their modified budget and they are still going to request a refund of the sales tax. He thanked those that worked to put the project together. A warranty walk-through will

be completed after 11 months. Park Board meeting - MVTV will install a hot spot at Olson Park at no charge to the City.

Council Member Graber - The Auditorium Board met November 10th, they are excited about the Brulé and Symphony concerts on Tuesday, which are sold out. Went to the Chamber mixer at the Center for Active Living and also attended the joint City/County meeting. November 17th attended a Chamber / CVB meeting and heard a presentation by John Landgaard regarding school priorities. The Chamber annual meeting is scheduled for January 29th, and they discussed the importance of hockey tournaments in town and generating revenue. Also the possibility of Senior Games being hosted here in Worthington during 2018. November 18th the Public Arts Commission met with Brady Haugen on the Crailsheim Bridge and the Event Center Globe. A grant will be written for the Globe project.

Council Member Janssen - Attended the NEON meeting on November 12th - they are working on the final draft for the Legislative Priorities and will be meeting on that in December. Attended the joint City/County meeting, and also went to the School Board meeting.

Council Member Harmon - Attended the same meetings as Council Member Janssen - also attended the CGMC conference. Water and Light Commission meeting was moved to November 30th - the well level in well #26 came up 7".

Council Member Sankey - Attended the NEON meeting, and would like Broadband added to the Legislative Priorities list. The School District was there pushing their need for a new school. The old Bigelow school is going to Like Life Ministries. On the 16th he attended the joint City/County meeting, and the Heron Lake Watershed District meeting on November 17th - there will be a hearing for the Jackson County Ditch on December 10th. A sediment reduction grant will be applied for, and they tabled a vote on a land donation from the Engler family. A grant was given for a cover crop study. The Board went into closed session for the help's wages. Attended a Broadband Border to Border three day meeting the 18th through the 20th - very informative.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, reported that Brian Kolander and his Accounting Department were awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association - the highest form of recognition in that field. The Public Arts Commission will be submitting a grant in December for the bridge sculpture project, then again in March for the globe sculpture project at the Event Center, which will require a 20% match. Financial statements for Olson Park show revenues to be \$18,000, or 32%, ahead last year. The Liquor Store revenues are \$184,000, or 6.7% ahead of last year, with net profits at \$44,000, or 6.7% over last year. As an informational item, Mr. Robinson reported that Worthington has established 16 TIF districts - 12 for housing, one for Oxford Labs, one for Oxford Street redevelopment, one for Bedford - Technologies, and one for the Northland Mall.

ADJOURNMENT

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The motion was made by Council Member Sankey, seconded by Council Member Janssen and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk