

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING, JULY 27, 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: Jessica Velasco.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Troy Appel, Public Safety Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk; Sgt. Brett Wiltrout, Public Safety Department.

Others present: Justine Wettschreck, KWOA; Kristin Kirtz, Daily Globe; Harris Darling and Sarah Darling; Chad and Jessica Nixon; Michael, Alex and Marah Purdy; Joann Grimsted; Paul Gonzalez; Kathy Lesnar and Annie Lesnar; Daniel Gohrman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER

Mayor Kuhle welcomed Jessica Velasco as the Honorary Council Member for the months of June, July and August, 2015.

AGENDA APPROVED/CLOSED

The motion was made by Council Member Harmon, seconded by Council Member Graber and unanimously carried to approve/close the agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

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

- City Council Minutes - Regular Meeting July 13, 2015; Special Meeting July 14, 2015; Special Joint City Council/Nobles County Commissioners Meeting July 15, 2015
- Minutes of Boards and Commissions - Water and Light Commission Minutes of July 20, 2015; Worthington Economic Development Authority Minutes of July 13, 2015; Water and Light Commission Minutes of July 6, 2015; Worthington Housing & Redevelopment Authority Minutes of June 23, 2015; Traffic and Safety Committee Minutes of June 30, 2015; NEON Minutes of June 6, 2015; Worthington Public Arts Commission Minutes of June 18, 2015; Worthington Public Arts Commission Minutes of June 30, 2015; Heron Lake Watershed Board Minutes of May 26, 2015
- Application to Block Streets from the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce for their Cruisin' Downtown Worthington Event Tuesday, August 11, 2015, 2:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., for the following streets:
 - Tenth Street from Second Avenue to Sixth Avenue
 - Third Avenue from Tenth street to the Alley

Fourth Avenue from Tenth Street to the Alley

- Amended the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Fund Budget to include an additional \$17,000 for repairs that were necessary when the water supply well facility failed suddenly
- Bills payable and totaling \$611,105.09 be ordered paid

CITIZEN AWARDS

Troy Appel, Public Safety Director, presented awards to the following citizens recognizing their willingness to step in and help others and potentially save lives:

Chad Nixon - June 26, 2015 - assisted a police officer in pursuit of a wanted felon who had run in to Mr. Nixon's business, resulting in the arrest of the suspect. Chief Appel presented Mr. Nixon with the Worthington Police Department Citizens Award.

Kelly Siverhus and Alex Purdy - June 29, 2015 - while separately driving by on Crailsheim Drive, observed a fire in a garage and worked together to extinguish the fire and remove the residents from the house. Chief Appel presented Siverhus and Purdy with Worthington Police Department Citizens Awards.

Paulo Lucio Gonzalez, Joel Grimstad, Clayton Grimstad and John Grimstad - July 3, 2015 - after a residential fire on Humiston Avenue, Mr. Gonzalez entered the home and located Dan Gorham unconscious in the kitchen. Upon his request for additional help, the Grimstads entered the house to pull Mr. Gorman to safety. Mr. Gonzalez and the Grimstads were presented with Worthington Police Department Civilian Life Saving Awards. Mrs. Joann Grimstad received the awards on behalf of her sons.

Council thanked the recipients for their willingness and quick actions. Mayor Kuhle stated these citizens helped to make the community a safer and better place to live.

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PORTION OF A PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT - COLLEGE VIEW HEIGHTS ADDITION

The owners of the property at 1045 Lexington Avenue are proposing to replace an existing shed, located on the southwest corner of their property and on an a platted utility easement, with a larger shed. The easement abuts an undocumented utility corridor that includes water main and sanitary sewer along with electric and communication lines. No utilities are currently located in the platted utility easement, however, portions of it are planned for use in relocation of electric and/or communication lines as required for future water main reconstruction. A partial vacation of the easement will accommodate construction of the replacement shed, which will still need to be shifted north of the location initially planned by the property owner. Staff presented a proposed ordinance that would vacate a portion of the existing public utility easement as follows:

Section I

An ordinance vacating that portion of the platted public utility easement over the southerly 15 feet of Lot 7, Block 3, College View Heights Addition, City of Worthington, Nobles County, Minnesota, except the westerly 8 feet thereof, lying north of the following described line:

Commencing at the southeast corner of said Lot 7; thence north along the east line of said Lot 7 a distance of 15.00 feet to the point of beginning of said line; thence westerly to a point on the west line of said Lot 7 distant 7.50 feet north of the southwest corner of said Lot 7, and there terminating.

The Water and Light Commission concurred with the recommendation for the proposed ordinance at their July 20, 2015 meeting.

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

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Kuhle - Commented on the recent article in the paper regarding crime statistics in Worthington and thanked Chief Appel for providing the insight.

Council Member Nelson - There are currently 14 units rented at the new Rising Sun Estates, with 22 additional units available.

Council Member Graber - Attended the Special City Council and Joint City/County meetings, and the Joint Jurisdictional meeting. It was requested that a home and workshop be constructed in the R1 area - that request will move on to the committee.

Honorary Council Member Velasco - Serves on various committees. The SE Soccer Committee through the YMCA- the U15 team took state in their division. Last Wednesday a new committee met - Minnesota Education Equity Project - various community leaders will participate, and their goal is to figure out the achievement gap.

Council Member Janssen - attended the same meetings as Council Member Graber.

Council Member Harmon - Water and Light Commission met - discussed the proposed easement vacation considered by Council earlier tonight and agreed unanimously to recommend adoption of the ordinance. Also discussed the well readings - we are in to the restricted area as the readings are down. Attended the CGMC meeting in Duluth - it was interesting. The CGMC is more into lobbying and labor relations. They presented former Mayor Oberloh with a plaque - he served on their Board and as a past president - and gained 10 to 12 new members for them. The State Demographer gave a presentation on Friday at the conference - the trends are positive in most communities. They are proactive on helping with the clean water challenge - the Supreme Court

challenged / came down on the PCA for some of their requirements.

Council Member Sankey - Attended the Special Council meeting and the Joint meeting where they talked about collaboration ideas. The Heron Lake Watershed Board rejected an offer from a citizen for them to purchase some of his property as the proposed purchase price was too high. The organization has one employee leaving. Bedford Industries has received their permit from the Board for impervious coverage related to their expansion project. July 23rd NEON met and discussed broadband - the 9 hot spots scheduled to be installed throughout the county should be completed before school starts. The Oxford Street Steering Committee will hold a meeting on July 29th with a public portion scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to allow for public comment / input on the proposal.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, reported that he had met two weeks ago with Brian Pellowski, developer on the Northland Mall project, and will be meeting with him again tomorrow, along with his design engineers, to review their proposed redevelopment plan. Last Monday Troy Appel, Council Member Harmon and he met with Kyle Oldre, Rock County Administrator and Emergency Management Director for an initial discussion on joint dispatch - that went very well. Along with Troy and Jessica Velasco, attended the kick off meeting for Equity in Education. Last week he and Scott Hain had a chance to meet with Congressman Walz's Chief of Staff - primary purpose was to talk about future energy projects but also had an opportunity to talk about Lewis and Clark and our housing situation. Next week he will be meeting with the DNR Tree Inspector to look at the trees that we planted through their grant program. On August 6th we will be attending an Active Shooter presentation/tabletop exercise - Chief Appel, along with several people from the Public Works Department and most of the Police Department will be there - topic is School Shooting. At the August 13th Council meeting the U15 Soccer League will be recognized for their accomplishment at state. Mr. Robinson also reminded Council of the City Employee Picnic scheduled for next Monday evening.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Sankey, seconded by Council Member Nelson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk