

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Pro Tem Ron Wood with the following Council Members present: Mike Kuhle, Diane Graber, Rod Sankey, Scott Nelson. Honorary Council Member: Robert Bristow.

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development; Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering; Mindy Eggers, Assistant City Clerk.

Others present: Pat Shorter, Dan Reese, and Pat Demuth, Worthington Fire Department; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA APPROVED**

Craig Clark, City Administrator stated that item E.1. will be pulled from the agenda and Brad Chapulis, Director of Community Development is present and will provide an explanation on the change. Mr. Chapulis stated that the Housing & Redevelopment Board was scheduled to present a request for additional funding for the Rising Sun Estates Housing Project but due to recent developments in the project the board feels they are not in a position to come before council and ask for additional funding as the amount has changed for the betterment of the project. The board is asking that they have time to identify the gap in funding and come back and make the presentation at the October 14, 2013 Council meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Wood and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the requested elimination of item E. 1.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED**

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

- City Council Minutes - Regular meeting September 9, 2013
- Minutes of Boards and Commissions - Water and Light Commission Minutes of September 9, 2013; Economic Development Authority Minutes of September 9, 2013
- Municipal Liquor Store Income Statement for the Period January 1, 2013 through August 31, 2013
- City Hall Closure - Friday After Thanksgiving
- Resolution Authorizing Grant Agreement with MN Department of Public Safety
- Bills payable and totaling \$1,158,273.68 be ordered paid

**FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE PROVIDING CRIMINAL HISTORY  
BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR APPLICANTS FOR CITY LICENSES APPROVED**

City Administrator Craig Clark stated effective Jan. 1, 2015, a City or County using a resolution as the basis for a local background check, or whose ordinance does not meet the minimum requirements established with the League, will receive a sanction as part of the audit process. This includes the requirement to stop running local checks until an acceptable ordinance is in place.

Minnesota Justice Information Services (MNJIS) is providing advance notice of this change to give Cities and Counties wishing to convert from a resolution to an ordinance, or needing to update an ordinance, ample time to do so. We are covered for the time being to conduct background checks, however, we need to adopt the proposed ordinance to prevent being sanctioned after the January 2015 deadline.

On May 28, 2013 the Council approved an ordinance providing for criminal history background checks for applicants for City employment. In consultation with City Attorney Mark Shepherd it was determined that the City should have a separate ordinance to provide criminal history background checks for applicants for City licenses.

The City Clerk, Public Safety Director and City Attorney reviewed the City Code when drafting the ordinance to eliminate discrepancies and bring the ordinance into compliance with the State's requirements. The proposed ordinance was drafted and reviewed by City Attorney, Mark Shepherd.

Council Member Kuhle asked what licenses this background check would cover. Mr. Clark stated that it would cover items like alcohol licensing, along with other various city licenses.

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

### **FIRE FIGHTER REQUEST FOR INCREASED PENSION CONTRIBUTION APPROVED**

As requested by Council staff met with the Fire Fighter Relief Association and discussed their request of 4.5 percent increase to their pension. They were receptive to a 2 percent increase effective January 1, 2014 (using the 2012 actuarial) rather than the previously requested 4.5 percent. This would take the pension benefit from \$2,725 to \$2,780 for a 20 year service amount from \$54,500 to \$55,590.

Council member Kuhle asked if population was a factor in how the State reaches the fund figure. Mr. Clark replied that the complex formula stays the same but population is one of the contributing factors that change it. Council Member Nelson asked if there was a cost associated with the actuarial, Mr. Clark stated that there is a cost approximately \$4,000.00. The association agreed that there would not be enough change to do another at this time considering the cost of actuarial. The next one will be in 2014. Mr. Nelson asked if we were closer in line with other communities. Mr.

Shorter stated that the increase will boost Worthington closer to where other community fire departments are. Council Member Wood asked if the association would be interested in having a conversation as we move forward that would address the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> years. A suggestion would be to do a declining balance that would essentially have an increase every third year, which would allow more compounding. Mr. Shorter stated that Mr. Clark, Brian Kolander and himself had discussed options of this nature in their meeting and the association would be willing to have discussions that would address this. Council Member Nelson stated that it is important that council look at something moving forward as an incentive to keep fireman. Council Member Kuhle asked if it was an important recruitment tool, Mr. Shorter stated that it is one of many. Council Member Kuhle stated that he feels it's a low cost service compared to what a full-time fire department. Mr. Nelson added that it is a value to keep experienced fireman as long as we can.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Nelson and unanimously approved to give the Fire Fighter Relief Association the requested 2 percent pension increase to a benefit amount of \$2,780 per year per fireman effective January 1, 2014.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Oberloh - not present.

Council Member Kuhle - nothing to report.

Council Member Graber - The Heron Lake Watershed continued discussion on the Jack Creek Sediment Project - applying for Project of the Year for the work that has been done at Fulda Lake - Seeking a partnership with MN Pollution (WINK Association) as they will be coming down to research the phosphorus in Lake Okabena so they can find out where all of the sediment is coming from - The Ocheda Clean Water Board approved a \$50.00 increase to landowners that are using filtered tips on their land, the increase would bring the reimbursement amount to \$150.00 - The library task force is still looking at their options with the land at the former swimming pool site - Open house at the CAL on September 19<sup>th</sup>, everyone happy

Council Member Sankey - Health Insurance Board looking at non self-insured options for city employees

Council Member Wood - The Water & Light Commission has had many discussions and has done a lot of research on the best method to use for approaching a watering ban, the Commission is comfortable with the new process.

Council Member Nelson - nothing to report.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Craig Clark, City Administrator, stated that the coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Fall Conference is November 13-15th, if interested in attending let staff know. On November 1, 2013

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the City of Worthington will be hosting the Greater MN Partnership meeting at the Fire Hall. The meeting will focus on Economic Development.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Sankey and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC  
Assistant City Clerk