

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 22, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Rick Von Holdt with the following Council Members present: Chad Cummings, Amy Ernst, Alaina Kolpin and Larry Janssen. Chris Kielblock (absent).

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Hyunmyeong Goo, Assistant City Engineer; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Steve Schnieder, City Engineer; Nate Grimmus, Deputy Chief; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Sam Martin, The Globe; Ryan McGaughey, Radio Works; Christoph Salinger, Crailsheim, Germany Representative; Jason Vote, Lake Okabena Association.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Von Holdt introduced Crailsheim, Germany Representative Christoph Salinger.

**AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

A motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Janssen and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01-05 ADOPTED ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing ordering improvement and preparation of plans and specifications.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Kolpin and unanimously carried to open the hearing.

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, gave a presentation on the proposed Church Avenue Pavement Reconstruction project. He explained the City's share of the project is from the center 24-feet and the assessable share includes curb and gutter, the remaining pavement area and driveways and sidewalks. The estimated assessable rate per foot is \$92.12.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony. None was received.

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to close the hearing.

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01-05

A RESOLUTION ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01-06 ADOPTED ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing ordering improvement and preparation of plans and specifications.

The motion was made by Council Member Kolpin, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to open the hearing.

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, gave a presentation on the proposed Second Avenue Street Reconstruction project. He explained the City's share of the project is from the center 24-foot and the assessable share includes curb and gutter, the remaining pavement area and driveways and sidewalks. The estimated assessable rate per foot is \$318.62.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony. None was received.

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Kolpin and unanimously carried to close the hearing.

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01-06

A RESOLUTION ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- City Council Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2024

- Cross Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2023
- LEC Joint Powers Committee Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2023
- Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling - Currie Town & Country Boosters, Inc. For March 11, 2024, at the Worthington Event Center, 1447 Prairie Drive
- Bills Payable Totaling \$907,138.87

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01- 07 ACCEPTING VOTING OPERATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, & ELECTION RESOURCES (VOTER) ACCOUNT**

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said Nobles County received a VOTER grant for \$5,623.60 to help maintain the voting equipment for the county’s polling places including the Auditor-Treasurer’s office that processes the ballots for the mail ballot precincts and the Absentee ballots. In some counties, each precinct is responsible for their own election equipment in which case the grant would need to be divided between the precincts. In this case, Nobles county is asking each city and township to allow the county to keep the funds and maintain the equipment and do the grant reporting.

A motion was made by Council Member Kolpin, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01-07

A RESOLUTION APPROVING VOTING OPERATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, & ELECTION RESOURCES (VOTER) ACCOUNT

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01-08 ADOPTED ACCEPTING A DONATION OF FUNDS**

Nate Grimmus, Deputy Chief, said a person who wished to remain anonymous has donated \$100 to the Worthington Police Department to be distributed to members of the public through the Kern's Christmas Cash Program. Worthington patrol officers will give out cash tucked inside Christmas cards during traffic stops before Christmas of 2024.

A motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Janssen and unanimously carried to issue a check to the Relief Association and adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01-08

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION OF FUNDS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**LAKE OKABENA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION FUNDING REQUEST APPROVED**

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, said staff has been approached by the Lake Okabena Improvement Association, asking about immediate plans for the underwater improvements to the Sunset Park Boat Ramp. Mr. Wietzema explained the dry conditions the past two summers have made using and maintaining the ramp almost impossible which resulted in the closure for most of the fall of 2023.

Mr. Wietzema said in March of 2021 the City hired a civil engineer to develop plans for the underwater improvements, the plans were approved for a MN DNR Waters Permit. In the Summer of 2021, the City used Local Option Sales Tax funds to do improvements to the above water portion of the landing, but began looking for other funding options for the below water portion. A request was made to the E.O. Olson Trust Fund and their board denied our request to help fund these improvements. As options for funding have been explored the landing has become more of a hazard for users of this boat ramp. There were reports of damage to boat trailers due to the low water and the drop-offs related to it being why the ramp has been closed.

He said everything is in place to do this project and has asked that Local Option Sales Tax funds be used to help the Lake Okabena Improvement Association complete this project. The group has committed \$10,000.00 towards the project and has agreed to oversee its completion.

Mr. Robinson said there is Sales Tax Revenue funds available for the project.

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve the Lake Okabena Improvement Association funding request of \$88,750.

**RECEIVE REPORTS AND ORDER HEARING ON EAST NINTH AVENUE SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION**

Mr. Goo presented the feasibility report on the proposed improvement of the East Ninth Avenue Sanitary Sewer Extension project from Eleventh Street to Tenth Street. He explained the proposed improvements involve regrading, replacement of the sanitary sewer main and sanitary services, temporary pavement, and permanent pavement restoration. The permanent pavement restoration will be 100% assessed against the property owners, given that the project was initiated by petition because the current sewer main is privately maintained and street reconstruction is not necessary. The project is scheduled to take place in the year 2025 to allow the ground to undergo settlement over the freeze-thaw cycle. Assessments would not commence until the full scope of work is completed. The hearing is scheduled to be held at the February 12, 2024, council meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Kolpin, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to accept the reports and adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION RECEIVING REPORT AND CALLING FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED  
IMPROVEMENT

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT FOR PRELIMINARY  
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE EAST OKABENA LAKE TRAIL UNDERPASS  
REVIEW**

Steve Schnieder, City Engineer Emeritus, said the East Lake Okabena Trail received a federal funding grant for construction in 2027. The trail alignment will go from Second Avenue to Nobles Street at Trunk Highway 60. The trail will cross under the Union Pacific Railroad through an existing underpass. The Union Pacific Railroad is requiring the underpass be evaluated for potential impacts to railroad operations. Mr. Schnieder said all preliminary engineering costs incurred by the Railroad will be the City's responsibility and the agreement is required to move forward with the trail project. The costs are estimated to be \$50,000.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Kolpin and unanimously carried to approve agreement UPRR REMS Project 794863 for reimbursement of the expenses for their services.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Von Holdt - No report.

Council Member Janssen - No report.

Council Member Ernst - The CCAC met last week, the Cultural Competency training was cancelled due to weather but has been rescheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 p.m. and the second training is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 p.m.

Council Member Kielblock - No report.

Council Member Kolpin - Attended a LEC Joint Powers Meeting. The building project was not bid correctly and they discussed reducing the size. A new quote was received for the size originally planned and will cost an additional \$15,000. The County Commissioners will be considering the additional cost at the next board meeting.

Council Member Cummings - No report.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Reminded Council of the Joint City Council and District 518 Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., in the High School Band Room. Will be attending the Ehlers and Associates Conference February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CLOSED SESSION UNDER MINN. STAT. 13D.05, SUBD. 3 (C)-PURCHASE OR SALE OF**

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**REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY - 3250 HIGHWAY 60, T102N, SECTION 8, WORTHINGTON MN**

Mayor Von Holdt stated that Council would be going into closed session under Minnesota State Statute §13D.05 SUBD. (C) - Purchase or Sale of Real or Personal Property.

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to close the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Janssen and unanimously carried to re-open the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Kolpin and unanimously carried to approve the sale of 3250 Highway 60, T102N, Section 8, Worthington MN contingent on approval by Swift and Company.

**CLOSED SESSION UNDER MINN. STAT. 13D.05, SUBD. 3 (C)-PURCHASE OR SALE OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY - PARCEL #'S 31-3929-000, 31-3930-000 AND 31-3928-000**

Mayor Von Holdt stated that Council would be going into closed session under Minnesota State Statute §13D.05 SUBD. (C) - Purchase or Sale of Real or Personal Property.

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to close the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Kolpin and unanimously carried to re-open the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve the sale of Parcel #31-3930-000 and Parcel #313298-000 for the County Ditch 12 Flood Mitigation Improvements Phase 2.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Janssen, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC  
City Clerk