

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 24, 2022**

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: Chad Cummings, Chris Kielblock, Amy Ernst, Larry Janssen, Alaina Kolpin.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Hyunmyeong Goo, Assistant City Engineer; Pat Shorter, Fire Chief; Jeremy Braaksma, Fireman; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Emma McNamee, Daily Globe; Ryan McGaughey, Radio Works.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Joint Powers Transit Authority Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2022
- Cross Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2022
- Heron Lake Watershed District Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2022
- Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2022
- LEC Joint Powers Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2022
- Heron Lake Watershed Special Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2022
- Municipal Liquor Store Income Statement for the period of January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022
- General Fund Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Budget and Actual for the period of January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022
- Application for Exemption from Lawful Gambling Permit - Worthington Area YMCA
- Bills Payable Totaling \$1,924,508.37

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE V OF THE CITY CODE OF WORTHINGTON, NOBLES COUNTY AND SUMMARY ORDINANCE - CHAPTER 54 - STORMWATER REGULATIONS APPROVED

Pursuant to published notice this is the time and date set for the second reading of a proposed ordinance to amend Title V of the City Code of Worthington, Nobles County - Chapter 54 - Stormwater Regulations.

A complete copy of the ordinance was provided in your October 12, 2022 Council Agenda.

A Summary Ordinance has been drafted for publication purposes and a printed copy of the entire ordinance is available for viewing in the City Clerk's office.

The motion was made by Council Member Chad Cummings, seconded by Council Member Chris Kielblock and unanimously carried to approve the summary ordinance and give a second reading to the proposed ordinance.

WORTHINGTON FIREFIGHTER'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION PENSION ADJUSTMENT APPROVED

Steve Robinson, City Administrator said volunteer firefighters meeting the eligibility requirements are entitled to receive retirement benefits in the form of a lump sum payment. Each eligible firefighter receives the benefit level in effect at the time of their retirement from active service. The benefit level has been adjusted from time to time to reflect inflation and to remain attractive in recruiting new volunteers. Mr. Robinson said the current benefit is \$2,979.00 per year of active service and the last adjustment occurred in January 2021. The relief association is requesting a two percent adjustment effective January 1, 2023 which would be \$3,039.00.

Mr. Robinson noted the pension increase was included in the pre-certified budget approved by Council at the September 12, 2022 meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Alaina Kolpin, seconded by Council Member Larry Janssen and unanimously carried to approve the two percent adjustment to firefighter retirement benefit effective January 1, 2023.

ACCEPTANCE OF BLANDIN FOUNDATION RURAL LEADERSHIP BOOST GRANT

Mr. Robinson explained a member of the Cross-Cultural Advisory Committee (CCAC) applied for the Blandin Rural Leadership Grant unbeknownst of the committee or City Staff and has since moved and is no longer on the committee. Staff was notified that the grant has been awarded in the amount of \$50,000.00 and it was specified in the grant that the City will serve as the fiscal agent. The purpose of the Rural Leadership Boost Grant is "to support local vision and spur dreamers and doers who move rural places forward".

Mr. Robinson explained the information in the grant application proposes to create a pipeline of community members to city roles and elected positions that are more representative of Worthington's diverse population. The committee's goal is to decrease financial barriers for community members interested in pursuing careers in translation and interpretation, communications and community engagement by offering scholarships. They want to strive to be a successful committee that promotes equity and diversity in all measures pertaining to decision making. The budget of the grant includes

the following:

- \$9,600.00 paying CCAC members \$100.00 for attendance at monthly meetings for a period of up to one year,
- \$36,000.00 for two intern positions in flexible part time positions, and
- \$4,400.00 for educational opportunities including interpretation/translation certificates, community engagement and communication.

The City will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the terms of the grant agreement. The interns will be employees of the City of Worthington and under the supervision of the City Administrator or designee. They will be required to regularly work in office space provided at City Hall and comply with all City personnel policies. The committee will assist the City's Human Resources Department in preparing guidelines for the intern positions including the Position Summary, Accountabilities, Essential Duties and Responsibilities, Peripheral Duties and Qualifications.

The committee will also participate in interviewing and the selection of the interns.

Council Member Cummings asked if committee members were interested in serving as interns.

Council Member Ernst said that none of them are interested or could do it because they have full time jobs. The hope is the interns will be able to follow through with the ideas that come from the committee.

Council Member Kielblock asked if this internship would go past the March 2024 expiration date. Mr. Robinson said it is for one year only.

Council Member Kolpin said even though it was pursued in an unusual manner, the person probably had an idea of ways to help within the city. If the grant can help the city it is a good thing.

Mayor Kuhle said while this is not standard practice to pay committee members it will hopefully help in getting people involved along with aiding in interpreting services.

A motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Kolpin and unanimously carried to accept the Blandin Foundation Rural Leadership Boost Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Kuhle - Thanked city staff and everyone involved that made the Governor's Pheasant Opener a success. He said it was great exposure for Worthington.

Council Member Janssen - No report.

Worthington City Council
October 24, 2022
Page 4

Council Member Ernst - No report.

Council Member Kielblock - No report.

Council Member Kolpin - Reminded everyone of the candidates forum for the District 518 School Board tomorrow night.

Council Member Cummings - Attended a YMCA Board Meeting, discussions continue on the partnership of the aquatic center. The YMCA Awards ceremony will be held on November 21st.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Robinson said the Olson Campground trail has been completed. The rails along the trail still need to be installed. The bridge abutment work is planned to start next week. Had a lunch with local City Administrators before John Call retires.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, CMC
City Clerk