

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

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, Chris Kielblock, Amy Ernst, Larry Janssen, Alaina Kolpin.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Hyunmyeong Goo, Assistant City Engineer; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Emma McNamee, The Globe; Ryan McGaughey, Radio Works, Cristina Adame, Honorary Council Member.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Von Holdt welcomed Cristina Adame.

AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES

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

A motion was made to amend the above motion by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously approved to amend the agenda adding the following Case Item *F.2. Final Plat - Worthington Economic Development Authority (EDA) Certain Property West of Highway 59 and North of I-90.*

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023
- Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2023
- Heron Lake Watershed Board Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2023
- Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2022
- Airport Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2022
- Prairie Justice Center Joint Operations Committee Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2022
- Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling - Currie Town & Country Boosters, Inc. for the date of March 15, 2023 at the Worthington Event Center
- Application for Exemption from Lawful Gambling Permit for the date of March 17, 2023- Pheasants Forever Nobles County Chapter 14

- Application for Exemption from Lawful Gambling Permit for the date of June 10, 2023- Worthington Okabena Windsurfers
- Application for Exemption from Lawful Gambling Permit for the date of July 15, 2023 - King Turkey Day, Inc.
- Application for Exemption from Lawful Gambling Permit for the date of September 16, 2023 - King Turkey Day, Inc.
- Application for a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License on March 25, 2023 - Avera Medical Group Worthington
- Bills Payable Totaling \$7,013,474.24

NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said a Nominating Committee Meeting was held on February 1, 2022 and are making the following recommendations for committee appointments:

Cross Cultural Advisory Committee

Appoint Nicole Chanthalack to replace Zawdee Ploesepoeliberty for a first two-year term. term to expire December 31, 2025

Water & Light Commission

Re-appoint Randy Thompson to a second three-year term, term to expire March 31, 2026

Re-appoint Deb Weg to a third three-year term, term to expire March 31, 2026

Park & Recreation Advisory Board

Re-appoint Joe Vosburgh to a second three-year term, term to expire March 31, 2026

Re-appoint Jessica Williams to a second three-year term, term to expire March 31, 2026

Planning Commission

Re-appoint Mark Vis to a second three-year term, term to expire March 31, 2026

Center for Active Living

Re-appoint Janet Slater to a second three-year term, term to expire

December 31, 2026

A motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to approve the Nominating Committee recommendations for appointments and reappointments.

APPROVED AMENDMENT TO THE WORTHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL POLICY AND STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Steve Robinson, City Administrator said members of the Worthington Fire Department receive hourly pay for all emergency calls, training sessions and meetings that they attend. In addition, they are enrolled in a defined benefit pension that currently awards \$3,039.00 per year of active service upon retiring with a minimum of twenty years as a firefighter. He explained a year of active service is defined as "rendered at least the minimum level of duties as specified and required by the fire department under the rules, regulations, and policies applicable to the fire department"(Minnesota Statute 424A.003 (d)) . Section I, Article IV.A of the Worthington Firefighter Personnel Policy stipulates that firefighters are required to attend a total of fifty percent (50%) of department meetings and incident calls on a quarterly basis to qualify for pension service time.

On January 23, 2023 the Fire Department met and voted to amend the personnel policy to "Firefighters are required to attend a total of forty percent (40%) of department meetings and incident calls on a quarterly basis."

In addition to the amendment, Administration requested language be added to the personnel policy that grants the City Administrator authority to grant exceptions to the service call requirements in the case of exceptional circumstances. The amendment would become effective April 1, 2023.

Council Member Kielblock asked for justification on the 10% reduction in the percentage for attendance. Mr. Robinson said that with changing lifestyles it is getting harder to find people that will serve.

Council Member Kolpin said she would be abstaining from voting but wanted to add that another reason is city employees that respond during work hours do not receive credit for the call because they are not allowed to collect under two state pensions at one time.

Council Member Ernst stated it would also be more convenient for members that work out of town.

Mayor Von Holdt added that in larger cities the percentage for meeting attendance may be higher than attendance required for calls.

A motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Janssen and approved with Cummings, Janssen, Ernst and Keilblok voting in favor of the following amendment

"Firefighters are required to attend a total of forty percent (40%) of department meetings and incident calls on a quarterly basis." and granting the City Administrator authority to grant exceptions to the service call requirements in the case of exceptional circumstances. Council Member Kolpin abstained from the vote.

SECURITY AND ACCESS UPGRADES AT THE WORTHINGTON FIRE STATION APPROVED

Mr. Robinson said staff requested a proposal from Midwest Alarm to furnish and install an integrated network video system at the fire station. The proposal includes six cameras placed throughout the office areas, apparatus bay and exterior. The cameras will record to the existing Eagle Eye server. The cost to furnish and install the system is \$9,667.56.

Staff received a proposal to upgrade the existing access system replacing the existing card reader and adding a remote Brivo Access system that allows unlocking doors via a cell phone app. The cost to furnish and install the access system is \$14,077.08.

The recommendation is to use ARP funds for the security cameras and access systems, the total cost is \$23,744.64.

Mr. Robinson noted the unallocated ARP balance is \$230,989.42.

A motion was made by Council Member Kolpin, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve the security and access upgrades at the Worthington Fire Station.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM - 2023 LOCAL BOARD OF APPEALS AND EQUALIZATION

Mr. Robinson said the Nobles County Assessor's Office has notified us that the 2023 Local Board of Appeal /Equalization for the City of Worthington has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 4, 2023 in the Nobles County Commissioner's Room. A quorum must be present and at least one Local Board of Appeal and Equalization trained member in attendance. Currently, Council Members Ernst, Cummings, Kielblock, Kolpin and Mayor Von Holdt are certified by the State. Council was asked to add it to their calendars.

PRELIMINARY PLAT – WORTHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA) CERTAIN PROPERTY WEST OF HIGHWAY 59 AND NORTH OF I-90 APPROVED

Matt Selof, Community Development Director, said the Economic Development Authority is considering a Preliminary Plat approval of a commercial subdivision located along Bioscience Drive and west of Highway 59. The proposed subdivision will create two lots and dedicate public right-of-way for the street. The legal description of the property under consideration is as follows:

A tract of land in the Northeast Quarter of Section 14, Township 102 North, Range 40 West,

of the 5th P.M. in the City of Worthington, Nobles County, Minnesota described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 14; thence North 89 degrees 30 minutes 04 seconds East, a distance of 1766.76 feet; thence North 00 degrees 01 minutes 08 seconds West, parallel with the west line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 14, a distance of 700.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 30 minutes 04 seconds East, parallel with the south line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 14, a distance of 431.00 feet; thence North 33 degrees 34 minutes 41 seconds East, a distance of 398.87 feet; thence North 20 degrees 11 minutes 21 seconds East, a distance of 319.53 feet; thence North 07 degrees 39 minutes 37 seconds East, a distance of 109.92 feet; thence South 89 degrees 57 minutes 43 seconds East, a distance of 25.49 feet to the westerly highway right-of-way line of Minnesota Trunk Highway No. 59, said right-of-way line being a line lying parallel with and 80.00 feet west as measured at right angles) of the east line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 14; thence North 00 degrees 03 minutes 03 seconds East, along said highway right-of-way line, a distance of 488.68 feet to a line lying parallel with and 685.00 feet south (as measured at right angles) of the north line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 14; thence South 89 degrees 47 minutes 23 seconds East, along said line, a distance of 802.85 feet to a point on a line lying parallel with the west line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 14 and passing through the point of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 01 minutes 08 seconds East, along said line, a distance of 1230.61 feet to the point of beginning.

Mr. Selof said the City Planning Commission considered the requested plat and voted unanimously to recommend approval at its February 7, 2023 meeting with the following conditions:

1. The 4 easements described by City Staff are included in the final plat. The Commission's recommendation was based on the following considerations:

1. The subject property is currently owned by the Worthington Economic Development Authority and encompasses three separate parcels. An extension of Bioscience Drive was constructed through the property in 2016 along with associated utilities. In an effort to make the property ready for sale, the EDA is proposing to plat the 3 parcels into two lots with dedicated public right-of-way.

2. The property under consideration is currently zoned 'B-3' General Business District and the proposed plat meets all standards for lot dimensions and size within this zoning district.

3. When considering a plat or other form of subdivision, the surrounding land uses should be considered to reduce future land use conflicts. The surrounding land uses are listed as follows:

North: Property is bordered by a drainage ditch, empty land and businesses/light industrial types uses.

South: Property borders an oil company, hotel, and gas station.

East: To the east sits Highway 59, a hotel/event center, and other businesses.

West: Empty land for future development.

Actual land use of the subject property will be determined as the property is sold. The sizing of the lots is appropriate for the development goals of the area.

4. Four additional easements will be required on the final plat to cover a small drainage pond, storm sewer, and two other stormwater structures. Staff is working with the surveyor to have these added to the final plat. The addition of these easements to the final plat will keep the final plat in substantial conformance with the preliminary plat under consideration, meaning Planning Commission approval of the final plat will not be required.

Mr. Selof noted should Council concur with the findings of the Planning Commission, it may approve the requested preliminary plat by motion. Any Council voting against the land use application must state for the record their reason(s) for denial.

A motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to approve the Preliminary Plat for certain property West of Highway 59 and North of I-90.

**FINAL PLAT - WORTHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
CERTAIN PROPERTY WEST OF HIGHWAY 59 AND NORTH OF I-90. APPROVED**

Mr. Selof said the EDA submitted a request to consider approval of the final plat for property west of Highway 59 to be known as Bioscience Industrial Park Third Addition. The final plat under consideration includes the 4 easements not previously included on the preliminary plat.

A motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve the Final Plat for certain property West of Highway 59 and North of I-90.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Von Holdt - Attended an SRDC meeting last week. Attended the LMC Mayor Institute in Mankato on February 10th and 11th.

Council Member Janssen - No report.

Council Member Ernst - No report.

Council Member Kielblock - Attended an Airport Advisory Board meeting with Bolton & Menk on airport plans for potential projects. Attended the Planning Commission meeting and started discussion on Shouses and the direction the City may want to take on these kinds of dwellings.

Council Member Kolpin - Attended a Transit Authority meeting and discussed the bussing schedule and how it can be altered to make it more user friendly. Dial a Ride is also an option and is very affordable.

Council Member Cummings - The LEC Joint Operations Committee meeting was postponed from

last week and is tentatively scheduled for this week.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Robinson said that he will be putting together an update on the ARP funds and will give Council the updated un-designated balance in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, CMC
City Clerk