

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 24, 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: Dennis Weber, Larry Janssen, Amy Ernst, Chris Kielblock, Chad Cummings.

Staff present: Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer; Cristina Adame, Communications & Relations; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Scott Hain, Public Utilities Manager; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Ryan McGaughey, Radio Works; Sam Martin, The Globe

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES

The Mayor stated *Item F.6. Resolution Calling for a Declaration of a Local State of Emergency* would be added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the noted addition.

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 June 10, 2024
- Water & Light Commission Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2024
- Bills Payable Totaling \$3,220,463.61

APPROVED AMENDING WATER & LIGHT COMMISSION BY-LAWS

Scott Hain, Public Utilities Manager, said the Water & Light Commission conducted a review of the current Commission bylaws at their April 14, 2024 regular meeting. Amendments were presented the May 6, 2024, regular meeting.

Mr. Hain explained the Commission approved amendments that include increasing the maximum number of consecutive full terms that a Commissioner may serve from three to five (Article II, Section 1), changing notifications for expected absences at meetings from the Commission Secretary or City Clerk to the Commission Secretary or General Manager (Article II, Section 5), changing the advance notice for Commissioner-requested items to be placed on the agenda from 48 hours to 72

hours (Article IV, Section 1.B.) and cleaning up Article VII, Section 5 on rates to be consistent with Section 6.04 of the City Charter. Article VIII, Section 1 of the bylaws provides that the bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Commission and subsequent approval by the City Council. He noted the Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed amendments at their May 6, 2024, meeting and request that the City Council approve the proposed amendments.

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to approve the amendment to the Water & Light Commission By-Laws.

APPROVED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Mr. Hain said staff was recently contacted by a representative from Great River Energy inquiring about the possibility of leasing the property containing the east water tower to be used as a lay down yard for materials and equipment associated with an upcoming electric transmission construction project.

He explained the lease agreement was drafted based on language contained in previous lease agreements that were in place on that property and presented to Great River Energy for consideration. Great River Energy has indicated their acceptance of the proposed terms in the agreement.

The lease agreement was unanimously approved by the Water & Light Commission at their June 17, 2024 meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the lease agreement with Great River Energy.

APPROVED DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL CITY REPRESENTATIVE TO CUERO, TEXAS FOR 2024 TURKEYFEST AND AUTHORIZATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said TurkeyFest is scheduled for October 11th -13th, 2024, the travel dates tentatively will be October 10th to Cuero and October 13th returning to Worthington. Section 4.17 of the Worthington City Charter Historical Partnerships, provides that “Council may authorize expenditures for one or more designated City officials to serve as official City of Worthington representatives to Crailsheim Germany, Cuero, Texas, and such other destinations that have a historical partnership/significance to the City.” Rick Von Holdt represented the City of Worthington in Cuero in 2023.

Council Member Cummings said he would be attending the Turkeyfest this year.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to designate Council Member Cummings as the City representative for Cuero Turkeyfest in October, 2024.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES TO CRAILSHEIM'S 2024 VOLKSFEST APPROVED

Mr. Robinson said Oberburgermeister Christoph Grimmer invited the Mayor and a delegation of up to 50 people from Worthington to attend this year's Volksfest in Crailsheim. Volksfest will be celebrated from September 20-23. It is requested that reimbursement of allowable travel and related expenses to the 2024 Volksfest are made to the Mayor. Section 4.17 of the City Charter grants the Council authority to approve expenditures for one or more designated City officials to serve as a representative to destinations that have a historical partnership. Crailsheim Germany and Cuero, TX are currently designated as historical partners.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the travel and related expenses for the Mayor to Crailsheim's 2024 Volksfest.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06-42 TO RESCIND THE CURRENT INVESTMENT POLICY AND ADOPT THE NEW POLICY

Mr. Robinson said City staff invests public funds in a manner that provides the highest investment returns with the maximum security while meeting the daily cash flow requirements.

The City's current investment policy was adopted by the Council on August 25, 1986. It was subsequently amended on January 23, 1989, March 13, 1989 and December 10, 2012. Ehlers, the City's investment advisor, reviewed the current policy and provided recommendations on updating and preparing a new policy. Ehler's recommended rescinding the current policy and adopting a new one.

The new policy conforms to all state and local statutes governing the investment of public funds.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to rescind the current investment policy and approve the new Investment Policy and adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06-42

RESOLUTION TO RESCIND THE CURRENT INVESTMENT POLICY AND ADOPT THE NEW POLICY

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

ADOPTION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY APPROVED

Occasionally, staff receives requests from government and non-government partners for a copy of the City's Conflict of Interest policy. Most frequently this will come from entities that are considering the award of grant opportunities. The City does not have an adopted Conflict of Interest policy.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy as presented.

APPROVED MINNESOTA WEST ATHLETICS SIGNAGE TO BE PLACED AT THE JBS FIELD HOUSE

Mr. Robinson said the City and Minnesota West Community and Technical College entered into an agreement to establish a long-term arrangement for the shared use of the JBS Field House as an enhanced training facility for their athletic and law enforcement programs.

He explained under the terms of the agreement, Minnesota West agreed to pay the City a one-time fee of 200,000.00 which was received on June 10, 2024. These funds are dedicated to future facility improvements and have been placed in the City's Equipment Revolving Schedule designated Field House account.

The agreement included a requirement that the City provide exterior backlit signage on the facility with logos of the Minnesota West Bluejay branding.

Behrends Sign Works has submitted a rendering of the approved signage at a cost of \$10,508.17. The School District Board has also approved adding their logo at a cost of \$10,083.27, which will be paid by the District.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the Minnesota West Athletics Signage to be placed at the JBS Field House.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06-43 CALLING FOR A DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Mr. Robinson said Chapter 12 of Minnesota Statutes provides that cities may declare a local state of emergency due to the occurrence of natural and other disasters to protect the public peace, health and safety; and preserve lives and property.

Council action is requested to pass the resolution declaring a local state of emergency for conditions resulting from the FLOODING EVENT on June 21st, 2024 for a period not to exceed 30 days. He noted the resolution needs to be in place to qualify for FEMA.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06-43

RESOLUTION DECLARING LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

APPROVED CHANGE ORDER FOR MILL AND OVERLAY

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, said the council awarded the Mill and Overlay project to Duinick, Inc. at the June 10th Council meeting. Given the bid was approximately 20% lower than the Engineer's estimate, staff prepared a change order to add a short block of Linda Lane from South Shore Drive to Hillcrest Avenue. This will result in an approximately \$31,000.00 increase but will not exceed the Engineer's estimate.

A motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to approve the change order in the amount of \$31,000.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06-44 SUPPORTING EAST OKABENA LAKE TRAIL

Mr. Goo said on February 24th 2024, Council approved to prepare and submit a Local Trail Connection Program Grant application to DNR for East Okabena Lake Trail project. One of the requirements for the application is to provide a resolution supporting the project. The resolution states that the City is obligated to provide 20% matching funds, and a maintenance period of no less than 20 years once the grant is awarded to the City.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06-44

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING - PORTIONS OF HWY 59 RECONSTRUCTION AND JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER

Mr. Goo said MnDOT is proceeding with plans for the reconstruction of Hwy 59 from approximately 0.5 miles north on Interstate 90 to Hwy 60 in Worthington. The project will include safety improvements at several intersections, grading and pavement, storm sewer, sanitary sewer and water main replacement, lighting and sidewalks. The section of Hwy 59 just south on Interstate 90 to Hwy 60 will be a Jurisdictional Transfer (turnback) to the City of Worthington after construction.

Representatives of MnDOT will attend the public hearing proposed to be held on August 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. to present the final layout and answer questions as required by statute.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to call for the public hearing to be held on August 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Von Holdt - No report.

Council Member Janssen - No report.

Council Member Ernst - No report, thanked staff for their hard work during the flooding event in the city.

Council Member Kielblock - No report, also thanked staff for their hard work during the flooding event.

Council Member Weber - No report, and also thanked staff for their hard work during the flooding event.

Council Member Cummings - No report, thanked staff for their hard work during the flooding event. Reminded everyone of the upcoming Beach Bash on July 3rd.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Robinson said the In-Town Apartments 1st floor had to be evacuated because of the flood waters. The City is paying for seven rooms at the Norwood Inn until July 4, 2024 for those affected.

Congressman Finstead's office notified the City that it has received the \$15.1 Raise grant.

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, said the diversion gates were opened as far as they could be to help alleviate some of the water flow. The lake has gone down 8 inches and as far as he knows there were no electrical issues and there were no issues with the wastewater.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk