

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

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

Staff present: Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer; Cristina Adame, Communications & Relations; Troy Appel, Public Safety Director; Nate Grimmus, Deputy Chief; Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Ryan McGaughey, Radio Works; Sam Martin, The Globe; Mike Kuhle, Josh Miller (5:33 p.m.), Wade Roesner (5:37 p.m.), various members of the fire department (5:46 p.m.).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

Mayor Pro Tem Cummings noted a correction to the agenda, Engineering Case Item 5 *Call for Public Hearing on Proposed Assessment*, was not listed on the agenda but the case item is in the packet.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Special City Council Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2024
- City Council Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2024
- Special City Council Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2024
- Special City Council Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2024
- Housing Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2024
- Housing Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2024
- Application for Exemption from Lawful Gambling Permit - Worthington Okabena Windsurfers
- Municipal Liquor Store Income Statement for the Period of January 1, 2024 through August 30, 2024
- Olson Park Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Budget and Actual for the Period of January 1, 2024 through August 30, 2024

- Field House Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Budget and Actual for the Period of January 1, 2024 through August 30, 2024
- Bills Payable Totaling \$4,121,064.19

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-60 ADOPTED APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES AND ALTERNATES FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION**

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said State Statute 204B.21 Subd, 2 states that election judges for precincts in a municipality shall be appointed by the governing body of the municipality at least 25 days before the election at which they will serve, which this year is October 11th for the November 5, 2024 General Election.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to appoint the slate of election judges for the November 5, 2024 General Election.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-60

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES AND ALTERNATES FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**APPROVED WORTHINGTON'S FIREFIGHTER RELIEF ASSOCIATION PENSION ADJUSTMENT**

Mr. Robinson explained volunteer (paid on-call) firefighters meeting eligibility requirements are entitled to receive retirement benefits in the form of a lump sum payment. Eligible firefighters receive the benefit level in effect at the time of their retirement from active service. Benefit levels have been adjusted every two years to reflect inflation and to remain attractive in recruiting new firefighters. The current benefit is \$3,039.00 per year of active service. The last adjustment occurred in January 2023. The relief association is requesting a two percent (2.0%) adjustment effective January 1, 2025. The adjusted retirement benefit would be \$3,100.00. He said the pension increase was included in pre-certified budget approved by Council at the September 9, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Robinson said incentive based bonuses have been implemented for those that give more effort than the standard 40% that is required to maintain eligibility.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Janssen and unanimously carried to approve the two percent adjustment to the firefighter retirement benefit.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-61 ADOPTED RELATING TO THE WORTHINGTON REGIONAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION GRANT AGREEMENT**

Troy Appel, Public Safety Director, said the Police Department has been awarded a \$10,000 in grant funds from the Worthington Regional Health Care Foundation. The funds will be combined with other reserve funds to purchase a public safety drone and related equipment.

With the purchase of the drone the WPD will be one of more than 5,000 law enforcement agencies (nationwide) who have implemented drone programs. He explained drones offer real-time situational awareness for almost every aspect of emergency operations and provide a view of any scene with a top-down view and provide data which would likely be missed from the ground. Deputy Chief Nate Grimmus has already started the training and is one of two officers that will be certified for the drone use.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-61

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE WORTHINGTON REGIONAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION GRANT AGREEMENT

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**CONSIDERATION OF STREET CLOSURE FOR HALLOWEEN APPROVED**

Mr. Appel said every year on Halloween, large numbers of children and adults participate in festivities on Smith Avenue. WPD will have officers and a stand in the area to provide safety items to the children.

For the safety of the public, the Worthington Police Department is recommending a temporary closure of Smith Avenue and a portion of Clary Street.

Mayor Pro Tem Cummings suggested residents be contacted by survey next year before Halloween to gauge the interest in continuing the street closure.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to authorize the closure of Smith Avenue and a portion of Clary Street, on October 31, 2024 (Halloween) from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**APPROVED 5 YEAR AIRPORT CIP AND THE BORROWING OF AIP FUNDS**

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, said on September 12, 2024 the Airport Advisory Board unanimously approved a proposed 5 year Airport CIP . The CIP will provide funding options for a 50' x 150' 3 bay airport hangar, rehab the south hangar taxiway, both of these projects are proposed for 2025. There is also a new corporate hangar taxiway proposed for 2026. The new hangar project would incorporate Federal FAA funding, State Aeronautics funding and local funding. He said at this time the FAA is funding projects at a 95% share, up from the normal 90% share. The remaining 5% split would be between the State and local partners. State projects like the south taxiway project would be funded at the normal 70% State, 30% local.

Each year the Worthington Municipal Airport receives annual AIP funding of \$150,000. Mr. Wietzema said due to the cost of these proposed projects the Municipal Airport would like approval to borrow AIP funds from other airports that would be paid back in future years. This is a common practice among airports when they have a large project. The last transfer that involved Worthington was in 2022, when our airport transferred AIP funds to Sauk Centre Airport. The airport would need to borrow approximately \$300,000 for the \$1,216,000 hangar project and an undetermined amount in 2026 for the corporate taxiway extension.

The City share of the 1.21 million dollar project would be \$34,189.47. Staff projects the cost would be recovered within the first four years of renting out the hangars. The local share funds come from airport reserves and have no effect on the general tax levy.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Janssen and unanimously carried to move forward with the proposed projects and allow the acquisition of the AIP funds.

### **DECLARE TWO PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES AS SURPLUS PROPERTY APPROVED**

Mr. Wietzema said in accordance with the City's Disposal of Property Policy, Council needs to declare City owned vehicles as surplus property, before they can be listed for sale. Staff would like council to authorize the following two vehicles as surplus so they can be disposed of.

- 2007 International 7300 Plow Truck with 46,370 miles.  
(1996 Wausau plow included)
- 2008 Ford F-350 with 86,981 miles.

He said staff is proposing the surplus vehicles be sold by sealed bid. Staff will advertise for the sale and also place for sale signs in the vehicles with information on how they can be purchased. The proposed surplus vehicles were replaced in the 2024 budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to declare the two listed vehicles as surplus property and allow city staff to advertise them for disposal.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-62 ADOPTED ORDERING PREPARATION OF FEASIBILITY REPORT ON PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT - MURRAY AVENUE**

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, said a feasibility report needs to be done for the Murray Avenue street reconstruction improvement project which includes the segment from Nobles Street to east dead end. The improvements would include base reconstruction, resurfacing, curb and gutter, driveway, and sidewalks. The improvements are projects that would be assessed to abutting property owners. Upon receipt of the report, Council will order a public hearing on the proposed improvements. A motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-62

A RESOLUTION ORDERING PREPARATION OF A FEASIBILITY REPORT ON PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-63 ADOPTED ORDERING PREPARATION OF FEASIBILITY REPORT - SIXTH AVENUE**

Mr. Goo said a feasibility report will be done for the Sixth Avenue street reconstruction improvement project for the segment of Eleventh Street to Fourteenth Street. The improvements will include base reconstruction, resurfacing, curb and gutter, driveway, sidewalks, and sanitary sewer services. The improvements are projects that would be assessed to abutting property owners. Upon receipt of the report, Council will order a public hearing on the proposed improvements.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-63

A RESOLUTION ORDERING PREPARATION OF A FEASIBILITY REPORT ON PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-64 ADOPTED ORDERING PREPARATION OF FEASIBILITY REPORT - RAY DRIVE STREET EXTENSION**

Mr. Goo said a feasibility report needs to be completed for the Ray Drive street reconstruction improvement project for the segment of Ryan's Road to east dead end. The improvements will include base reconstruction, resurfacing, curb and gutter, driveway, and sidewalks. The

improvements are projects that would be assessed to abutting property owners. Upon receipt of the report, Council will order a public hearing on the proposed improvements.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09-64

A RESOLUTION ORDERING PREPARATION OF A FEASIBILITY REPORT ON PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**RESOLUTION NOS. 2024-09-65 AND 2024-09-66 ADOPTED DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED AND ORDERING PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT - EIGHTH AVENUE & ICE & SNOW REMOVAL**

Mr. Goo, City Engineer, said the following costs have been determined for the improvement of the following:

- Eighth Avenue - from Ninth Street to dead end

Mr. Goo said also included are the 2024 Miscellaneous Unpaid Charges for the additional assessment as follows:

- Removal of Ice and Snow
- Removal of Noxious Weeds & Vegetation

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09-65

A RESOLUTION DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED AND ORDERING PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT

( Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09-66

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED AND ORDERING PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT**

( Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**RESOLUTION NOS. 2024-09-67 AND 2024-09-68 CALLING FR HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT**

Staff presented Resolutions Calling for Hearings on Proposed Assessments for the following:

**PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 120 Eighth Avenue Street Improvement**

- Eighth Avenue - from Ninth Street to dead end

**2024 MISCELLANEOUS UNPAID CHARGES**

- Removal of Ice and Snow
- Removal of Noxious Weeds & Vegetation

The hearings will be held on October 14, 2024 at the Council meeting.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09-67

**CALLING FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT**

( Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09-68

**CALLING FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT**

( Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Council Member Janssen - No report.

Council Member Ernst - No report.

Council Member Kielblock - No report.

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Council Member Weber - No report.

Council Member Cummings - Attended a meeting on placing chairs and benches on the newly completed Third Avenue. Different options will be experimented with before a final decision is made.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Robinson said professional photos will be taken for elected officials for the new website at Ricker's Photography on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

He also said the sale of seven lots have been closed on. One on Cecilee Street and four in Glenwood Heights.

A meeting with FEMA will be held on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, to go over storm damage from the flood event earlier this summer.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC  
City Clerk