

**JOINT WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL/NOBLES COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS/WREDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 10, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. at the Worthington Fire Hall by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Council Members present: Mike Kuhle, Diane Graber, Rod Sankey, Ron Wood, Scott Nelson.

Nobles County Commissioners present: Bob Demuth, Jr.; Marvin Zylstra; Matt Widboom; Don Linszen; Gene Metz.

WREDC Board Members present: Jeff Williamson; Jason Turner; Bruce Heitkamp.

City staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development; Scott Hain, General Manager Worthington Public Utilities; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Nobles County staff present: Tom Johnson, Nobles County Administrator.

WREDC staff present: Abraham Algadi, WREDC Director.

Others present: Gary Shelton, Scott County Administrator; Darlene Macklin, Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director; Justine Wettschreck, KWOA; Aaron Hagen, Daily Globe.

**PRESENTATION BY GARY SHELTON, SCOTT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR,
WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN EACH OTHER**

City representatives in attendance at the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities 2013 fall conference heard a presentation by Scott County Administrator, Gary Shelton, on an initiative they had established to get their government entities working together to greater benefit their area. Upon their request, Mr. Shelton agreed to come to Worthington to present his information to interested groups.

The presentation, titled “Working Together to Strengthen Each Other”, was based on establishment and efforts of the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE). The SCALE organization was established in 2003, with representatives from all government entities in Scott County including townships, elected officials, staff, school districts, State Representatives, Watersheds, Park District, Soil & Conservation, and tribal members among others. The Association’s mission is to “explore new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide superior services while making the most of limited resources.” They have completed a Unified Economic Development, Land Use and Transportation Plan, which enables them to quickly provide information to prospective businesses. Mr. Shelton said forming the Association keeps them all talking together and focuses on what will benefit not only their county, but the cities within their county, the surrounding area, the metro area, greater Minnesota, and the state. SCALE’s collaborative efforts have resulted in investments of \$454.3 million in projects and

the addition of 4,566 jobs. Mr. Shelton said given the attendance at this meeting, Worthington had a good start to working together, and has a good location - it takes a long time to get something like this going, but we should never say we're too small to do something.

Meeting participants thanked Mr. Shelton for taking his presentation.

WORTHINGTON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HOUSING INITIATIVE UPDATE

Abraham Algadi, Worthington Regional Development Corporation Director, provided information from the "Builders Meeting" held December 12, 2013. The meeting addressed the housing situation in Worthington, and determined that there is a need for 500 houses to be built by 2020. Mr. Algadi introduced the "Nobles Home Initiative" as the result of that meeting, with the established goal to develop a multi-prong approach to encourage private investment in all segments of the housing market within the incorporated area of Nobles County, to help mitigate the risk of new development and promote new construction, and to develop a robust model to address housing needs across all income scales.

Mr. Algadi added they will be marketing the program and will be coming to the local entities for support.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Wood, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk