

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING - WORK SESSION, MAY 31, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following Council Members present: Scott Nelson, Diane Graber, Larry Janssen, Mike Harmon, Rod Sankey.

Staff members present: Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Mindy Eggers, Assistant City Clerk.

Others present: Dan Livdahl, John Landgaard, Steve Schneider, Lyndon Olson, Jeff Williamson, Jay Milbrandt, Alex Chhith, Daily Globe; Justine Wettschreck, KWOA.

**SOCCKER FIELDS/ISD 518 PROPOSAL**

Steve Robinson, City Administrator explained that Council has previously authorized staff to enter into a contract with SEH to update the soccer field plans at Buss Field. Mr. Robinson stated that John Landgaard, ISD 518 Superintendent contacted him about partnering with the School District on soccer fields and constructing new ones instead of continuing with the upgrades at Buss Field. Mr. Robinson stated that engineers have been put on hold due to this request.

John Landgaard stated that everyone has a draft plan that was handed out. Mr. Landgaard stated that this draft will be presented to the community on June 8<sup>th</sup> for public comment. The School district is asking if the City would like to collaborate with the district on three soccer fields at the proposed new high school site.

Mr. Langaard explained that the master plan that was put together in 2013 highlights the goals for Buss Field such as doing a major overhaul of the fields until other options are available at the complex or in the meantime, top dressing and filling holes to bring it up to a safe playing level. Mr. Landgaard stated that this is why the district would like to promote collaborating at this time with the City on the new school site and feels that construction could possibly started by late summer or early fall. He noted he does not see a reason why the fields could not be City owned and operated.

Discussion was held on the pros and cons of moving forward with the soccer fields at the new school site. The consensus from Council members is there are too many things that would have to fall into place before anything could move forward. Mr. Robinson stated there is concern about the utility infrastructure that would have to take place along with the parking to move forward at the new site, which would be delayed by months and thus leaving the Buss fields with no improvements.

Council Member Graber asked if the College has been contacted to be part of the collaboration. She has been told that the college is looking at having a soccer club. Mr. Landgaard stated that at this time there has been no contact with the college. Mr. Robinson stated that conversations have been held with the college and the City has agreed to let them use Southeast Park as the practice facility for this fall. As the City moves forward he foresees that Buss Field could possibly become the home field for the college.

Mayor Kuhle stated that his feeling is the City would like to collaborate with the School District in the future on projects but also feels that it needs to move forward with the proposed improvements to Buss fields as planned. The Mayor noted that council members will need to weigh in on the adequate amount and types of recreational activities that are needed and do what is best for the community as a whole.

Mr. Robinson stated that the internal funding for Buss Field is in place and the City is asking to extend the option sales tax to the full ten years with a decision to be made in the next Legislative session.

Council members agreed that moving forward with the improvements at Buss Field is the City's first priority and collaborating on adding future soccer fields with the School District can be looked at in the future.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Janssen, seconded by Council Member Nelson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC  
Assistant City Clerk