

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING, MARCH 22, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Aldermen present: Lyle Ten Haken, Mike Kuhle, Ron Wood, Mike Woll, and Honorary Council Member Martin Rickers. Aldermen absent: Scott Nelson (excused).

Staff members present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Mike Cumiskey, Public Safety Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk; Steve DeGroot, Street Superintendent; Jim Laffrenzen, Public Works Superintendent (7:30 a.m.).

Others present: Kari Lucern, Daily Globe; Jim Bunner, KWOA; Representatives from Schaap Sanitation.

Mayor Oberloh requested the agenda items be taken out of order, with the Hospital Reserve Update being moved to last. Alderman Wood requested that item 2 also be moved to the end of the meeting in conjunction with the Hospital Reserve discussion.

**SANFORD WORTHINGTON FUNDING REQUEST - ARMER RADIO SYSTEM**

Council considered a request received from Sanford Worthington for grant funding for their conversion to the ARMER radio system as required by Nobles County emergency. Total estimate for the equipment is \$42,614.18. Initially, Council had committed \$750,000 of the hospital proceeds for the City's ARMER conversion, however, a grant to the fire department was enough to cover their equipment and required only a ten percent match from the \$750,000, saving the City approximately \$60,000. Mike Cumiskey, Public Safety Director; noted the Regional Radio Board was recently notified of additional grant money, which was split evenly between the members and resulted in another \$18,727 to the City of Worthington. Chief Cumiskey said the Board had been encouraged to use the additional funds for non-governmental entities. Nobles County had received the same amount, and had received a copy of the same letter from Sanford. Council and staff suggested that Sanford could approach Nobles County for funding, and that perhaps they should provide some of the funding themselves.

Following discussion, the motion was made by Alderman Wood, seconded by Alderman Kuhle and unanimously carried to approve the expenditure, out of current ARMER funds, of \$14,500 with the remaining amount to be contributed by Sanford and/or Nobles County.

**HOSPITAL RESERVE UPDATE**

Council reviewed information provided by Brian Kolander, Finance Director; on the hospital sale funds including use to date, reserve amounts and funds remaining. Alderman Wood noted that after all projects and promises are done, we were down to \$6 million in legacy funds and \$1.6 million in impact dollars and it is time to say no. Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering, provided information regarding the Heron Lake Watershed budget, noting they were at the point of being able

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to seek grant funding for a TMDL study. We have not started the process yet to obtain a TMDL study, which takes about three years. Discussion followed on the Okabena/Ocheda Clean Water Partnership's request for \$2.2 million in funding. It was suggested that interest from that amount could be designated as having to go towards water quality projects, but without a mandate to be spent so the fund could potentially accumulate and grow. Mr. Haffield said we need to be able to be in a position to act on land acquisitions and perpetual easement opportunities for wetland when they come up, without having to resort to eminent domain or other unfriendly methods or without going into debt. City Administrator Craig Clark also reminded Council that they had previously discussed using the remaining funds as some type of endowment fund with only the interest to be used for projects. All proposed projects could be brought forward at the same time for equal consideration.

Council determined to continue this discussion at another meeting, possibly a special meeting next week.

### **SPRING CLEAN UP**

Jim Laffrenzen, Public Works Superintendent, presented a proposal to Council regarding the 2011 annual city-wide spring clean up, including costs, issues and proposed changes. The quantity of appliances that are put out have become the real problem, with some of them coming even from outside the city. Council considered different proposals for control of the problem including central collection sites, paid tags, and monitoring. Eric Joens of Schaap Sanitation told Council that the volume of material that is going out on the curb shows it's become an annual planning process for some people. Mr. Joens added they are trying to put some responsibility and accountability on those people. They also want to encourage people to use their regular trash/recycling pickups for items that meet those guidelines such as cardboard and small trash items. Charging for picking up appliances on a per item basis worked well when we implemented that practice, but the number of appliances picked up ballooned last year when we didn't charge for those. Residents have the ability to request and pay for a large item pick up directly with Schaap Sanitation through their website. Mr. Laffrenzen said we would need to stress fines and enforcement of violations.

Following review, the motion was made by Alderman Woll, seconded by Alderman Ten Haken and unanimously carried to approve the 2011 Spring Clean Up as follows:

1. Will not pick up loose or bagged items which fit in weekly garbage cart container, including recyclable materials.
2. Will not pick up construction materials to include wood, bath tubs, commodes, windows paneling, doors, etc.
3. Large item pickup (\$10/item) only to include:
  4. Appliances such as stove/range, refrigerator, micro-wave, humidifier/dehumidifier, dish washers
  5. Mattresses, box springs, day beds, futons.
  6. Furniture such as couches, recliner chairs, large tables, etc.

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7. Carpet rolls, linoleum.
8. Electronics such as televisions, computers, radios, etc.
9. The clean up will include items which will not fit in your weekly garbage/recycling containers, such as lumber, doors, windows, metal/iron, at no charge, but will be limited to a quantity that would fit into a regular pickup box (2 feet high x 4 feet wide x 8 feet long).
10. No hazardous waste will be picked up.

**SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Alderman Woll, seconded by Alderman Kuhle and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

Janice Oberloh  
City Clerk