

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 10, 2014**

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

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Justine Wettshreck, KWOA; Aaron Hagen, Daily Globe; Tom Johnson, Nobles County Administrator; Julie Wellnitz, Nobles County Library Director.

**CITY BALLOT QUESTION AND APPROVAL OF USE OF SITE**

The City recently received information that the interest of the E.O. Olson heirs in the property where the former outdoor pool was located had expired, which allows the City to explore the option of conveying the property to Nobles County for a new public library. Because the site is considered a park, releasing the land from park status would take voter approval as provided by the City Charter. Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development, noted the portion of the property with the rearing ponds would need to be included to meet impervious coverage requirements.

Council considered the following three options for a proposed ballot question to be put before the voters at 2014 General Election regarding the former outdoor pool site, asking the voters to approve the sale, transfer, or lease of the property to Nobles County for a new library:

CITY QUESTION BALLOT

CITY OF WORTHINGTON

To vote for a question, completely fill in the oval next to the word “YES” for that question. To vote against a question, completely fill in the oval next to the word “NO” for that question.

**APPROVAL TO TRANSFER PARK PROPERTY  
TO NOBLES COUNTY FOR LIBRARY**

May the City of Worthington transfer to Nobles County certain park property located between Worthmore Street, Park Avenue, West Lake Avenue, Liberty Drive and Elmwood Avenue so as to allow the County to build and operate a public library thereon subject to the retention of a conservation easement will protect and maintain the existing fish rearing ponds?

OVAL YES

OVAL NO

CITY QUESTION BALLOT

CITY OF WORTHINGTON

To vote for a question, completely fill in the oval next to the word "YES" for that question.  
To vote against a question, completely fill in the oval next to the word "NO" for that question.

APPROVAL TO LEASE PARK PROPERTY  
TO NOBLES COUNTY FOR LIBRARY

May the City of Worthington lease to Nobles County certain park property located between Worthmore Street, Park Avenue, West Lake Avenue, Liberty Drive and Elmwood Avenue so as to allow the County to build and operate a public library thereon subject to provisions in the lease which will protect and maintain the existing fish rearing ponds?

OVAL YES

OVAL NO

CITY QUESTION BALLOT

CITY OF WORTHINGTON

To vote for a question, completely fill in the oval next the word "YES" for that question. To vote against a question, completely fill in the oval next to the word "NO" for that question.

APPROVAL TO SELL PARK PROPERTY  
TO NOBLES COUNTY FOR LIBRARY

May the City of Worthington sell to Nobles County certain park property located between Worthmore Street, Park Avenue, West Lake Avenue, Liberty Drive and Elmwood Avenue so as to allow the County to build and operate a public library thereon subject to the retention of a conservation easement will protect and maintain the existing fish rearing ponds?

OVAL YES

OVAL NO

Several Council Members indicated they had no interest in leasing the land to the County but would consider conveying the property by sale or transfer providing there was language added that would convey the property back to the City if the County failed to build a library or if the library would cease to exist.

Staff noted the property would need to be declared as surplus property prior to any sale, lease or transfer. Council Member Wood noted that he was vocally against putting a library on that site - that Council had earlier agreed to maintain the downtown core area, and this could result in a vacant building there.

Following discussion, the motion was made by Council Member Wood to create a ballot option that Council agree on transfer, lease or sale of the property. Council Member Nelson seconded the motion. Following discussion and clarification, Council Member Wood amended his motion to include "for the purpose of a library" and Council Member Nelson accepted the amendment. The following voted in favor of the motion: Kuhle, Graber and Nelson, with the following voting against the motion: Sankey and Wood - motion carried

Staff requested Council approval of one of the forms of ballot question before them, sale, transfer or lease. Following discussion, the motion was made by Council Member Kuhle to transfer the property. Council Member Nelson asked if that included striking the word "conservation" from the ballot question, which was confirmed. Following discussion, motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Kuhle moved to transfer the property to Nobles County, striking the word "conservation" from the question. Council Member Nelson seconded the motion, with the following voting in favor of the motion: Kuhle and Nelson. The following voted against the motion - Sankey, Wood, and Graber - motion failed

Council Member Graber moved to lease the property to the County - motion failed for lack of a second.

Council Member Kuhle moved to allow the transfer to the County with the stipulation that if it ceases to be a library then it transfers back to the City. Council Member Graber seconded the motion, with the following Council Members voting in favor of the motion: Kuhle, Graber and Nelson, and the following Council Members voting against the same: Sankey and Wood - motion carried.

Staff will work to reword the ballot question to include the requested stipulation.

### **BUSINESS SUBSIDY POLICY**

At their March 18, 2014 Special Meeting, Council and staff discussed the City's current Business Subsidy Policy. Following discussion, Council agreed to review the policy and directed staff to research what the minimum wage requirements were in policies adopted by other Minnesota communities. Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development, distributed information obtained in his review and comparison, concluding that there are three categories a majority of the policies follow: replication of state policy, specified locally established wage requirement, and wage requirements based on economic statistics. Each of the communities have defined what they believe is a "livable wage" that would warrant public financial assistance for economic development. Mr. Chapulis said the matter was discussed with the Economic Development Task Force but didn't gain the necessary support for their strategic plan. Council questioned whether benefits were included in the minimum wage amounts displayed - he would request that they not be included.

Council determined they would like additional time to review the information just provided by staff before making any changes to our business subsidy policy, and requested that staff do additional homework and involve the County and WREDC.

### **IPAD / WI-FI DISCUSSION**

Craig Clark, City Administrator, noted that to move forward with electronic Council agenda packets, staff had researched and settled on IPADs. The Water and Light Commission implemented the use of IPADs for their agendas and Council Member Wood reported that it is working very well. Mr. Clark said Council should also consider whether the City would supply Wi-Fi to any Council Member that did not already have it. Council noted that a number of establishments in Worthington offer free Wi-Fi, and once it is downloaded it would be stored on the device - the City should not need to provide the service to them. Mr. Clark said Council would choose if they wanted a paper packet or the IPAD, but not both. Mayor Oberloh suggested that if large exhibits and policies could be accessed electronically it would be great. Council inquired if it would be possible to get individual email accounts set up on them so they could keep city business separate from their personal email. Mr. Clark said devices similar to the ones the Water and Light Commission use are approximately \$329 plus the cost of the cover - a tablet option would be slightly less expensive. If Council wanted email capabilities on the devices we may need to look at additional storage capacity. We would assume the devices would belong to the City, and if they were lost or damaged, or needed updates, the City would take care of it.

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR SUMMER HOURS FOR LOCAL 49 APPROVED**

Staff presented a request from the Operating Engineers Local 49 for Council to consider providing

a summer hours work schedule for 2014 that would allow them to work longer days and receive Friday afternoons off. Summer hours in 2012 started June 20 and in 2013 started May 20<sup>th</sup>. Craig Clark, City Administrator suggested we could start them April 21<sup>st</sup> in 2014. Council Member Graber inquired if this would be available to other groups if they requested. Mr. Clark noted it would be considered at that time, but we would need to be sure that all departments are covered during the normal working hours.

The motion was made by Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Wood and unanimously carried to approve the Memorandum of Summer Hours for Local 49.

It was noted that the agreement did not cover the non-union, supervisory positions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Wood, seconded by Council Member Sankey and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC  
City Clerk