

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 22, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 a.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 present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development; Sgt. Brett Wilttrout; MyRa Onnen, Community Services Officer (CSO); Janice Oberloh, City Clerk (7:25 a.m.).

Others present: Jim Laffrenzen.

NUISANCE ORDINANCE/ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Kuhle said he requested this item on the agenda as informational to the new Council Members and for a discussion to determine if it needs to be improved. He also wanted to inquire with staff if there was any challenges or any way we could improve the ordinance. Sgt. Brett Wilttrout provided a "Nuisance 101" power point presentation to Council. Our prime nuisance categories are blight, graffiti, noises and animals. Sgt. Wilttrout reviewed various instances of each of the graffiti, noises and animals categories, stating that the biggest public nuisance the Police Department sees from their end is the dogs at large and the music. The enforcement procedure is the abate, the contact with the CSO (MyRa), and the appeal if they choose to do that. Police Officers do have the right in Minnesota to remove children from unsanitary conditions. Sgt. Wilttrout and Ms. Onnen reviewed the process for enforcement. Administrative citations can only be issued on violations of City ordinance, not state statutes. Nuisance complaints come in from both the public (complaints) and from the CSO and policing. The CSO does not enter homes, but the Police Department is allowed to enter without a warrant if they are invited in. Sgt. Wilttrout and Ms. Onnen both stated that the City has done a good job of allowing them to do their job - Council has been really pro-active. Ms. Onnen said her ability to issue a \$90 ticket for a nuisance violation has really helped - she usually doesn't need to go back again. She issued 160 citations last year for parking on yards and inoperable vehicles.

The Chamber of Commerce Community Appearance Committee has discussed the issue of hand painted signs, and wants to review the City's sign ordinance.

PRIVATE DOCKS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, noted he added this item to the agenda as a review of the City's dock policy as there will be an additional dock permit request coming to Council on Monday evening. Council had previously established the number of dock permits for 2015 as nine, which have all been issued. Mayor Kuhle said he has never been in favor of limiting the number of dock permits available - it doesn't seem to be a problem. Council Member Graber said she has a problem with the inconsistency of Council - letting everyone negotiate our policies. Discussion was held on the current dock permit policy.

FIREWORKS

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said this issue will be coming back to Council on Monday to follow up with the request that was received at the meeting on April 13th. Council Member Nelson stated there is lot of negativity in the community after the request to move the City's fireworks display to Friday, July 3rd to coincide with a fund raising event - maybe we should contact them and see if they'll pull it. Mr. Robinson said he had heard the group was trying to fund raise to have their own display. Council Member Graber said the only inquiry she had was who would pay for the fireworks if we move them. The necessity of a permit was discussed. Mr. Robinson said the current contract for fireworks was at a rate of \$11,000. The Chamber pays for half of them by unwritten agreement and Mr. Robinson said he would hold them to that. He will be meeting with Darlene later today and will discuss it. Mayor Kuhle said the fireworks are just a symbol - Council Member Jansen agreed adding it is not a Veterans Day. Council Member Sankey responded that we have a Council that sets policy, and now if every time a couple of people come forward and we say yes to changing the policies, if they're not going to stand for anything, why do we have them. There are 13,000 people in our community and a small group of people come in and want to do something. Mayor Kuhle said policy is policy but policy can be changed. Council Member Sankey maintained that we would be changing policy for just a few people - we've already discussed this. Mayor Kuhle responded we can talk about this later.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kuhle declared the meeting adjourned at 8:13 a.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk