

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 29, 2013**

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. Honorary Council Member: Carl Nagel.

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Mike Cumiskey, Public Safety Director; Jim Eulberg, Public Works Director; Myra Onnen, Neighborhood Services Officer; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Aaron Hagen, Daily Globe; Justine Wettshreck, KWOA; Jim Laffrenzen.

**CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Outdoor Pool Request - Council discussed the petition brought forward by a group of citizens to Council earlier this year for a new and expanded aquatic center. Consensus was to investigate expansion at the current facility located at the YMCA, or if not approved by the MNSCU system, look at enhancing the beach area. Craig Clark, City Administrator, will investigate and talk with Andy Johnson of the YMCA.

Farmer's Market Ordinance/Domesticated Animal Ordinance - Mike Cumiskey, Public Safety Director, said he had checked with several cities and had not found one that allowed live animals at their markets. His recommendations are to more clearly define Farmer's Market, look at whether we need to license them and attach a fee and background check, and possibly require them to register with the "Minnesota Grown" state association. Council was not in favor of charging a fee, but were in favor of registering/licensing so the product sold could be traced if necessary. Chief Cumiskey said Mark Shepherd, City Attorney, recommended that Council pass a moratorium on any animals until we get the language tightened.

The motion was made by Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to declare a moratorium on the sale of live animals at the Farmer's Markets until the City's ordinance can be tightened.

Beach Nook Request - The current operator of the Beach Nook business located in the City's facility at Centennial Beach has expressed an interest in improvements there. Craig Clark, City Administrator, said there is \$5,000 included in the budget essentially for marketing for the facility. Enhancing the facility would go along with Council's previous discussion regarding promotion and enhancement of our lake and beach. Council reviewed a list of suggestions submitted by the current operator which included:

1. Some kind of protected area with seating for people to eat and get out of the elements
2. Need door in the front of the building for better security, delivery, and to be able to grill with only one person on duty
3. More lighting for better security at night

4. Ceiling fans for better cooling in the summer, you're working in 90+ temp mid-summer and very hard to keep equipment running cool
5. Wifi access to draw people to the area
6. City needs to weekly drag the beach
7. More docking area for boats and pontoons
8. Need some kind of payment from the City to make it worth operating

Jim Eulberg, Public Works Director, offered the following suggestions in response:

1. Some heavy duty commercial deck furniture with umbrellas could be purchased to provide additional shaded seating. The umbrellas would probably have to be removed and stored inside during non-business hours.
2. An additional door could be done although I don't know what the costs would be.
3. There is functional exterior lighting, front and rear; additional lighting could be put in at additional cost.
4. Ceiling fans could be installed but prior to installation it should be verified that they would not be in conflict with any health codes for a food preparation area.
5. Wi-fi service could be provided; the service and installation would be paid for out of the Beach Nook budget.
6. The previous lease agreement stated the lessee is responsible for keeping the beach area clean. The Parks Department can do the beach grooming with time spent for man power and equipment charged back to the Beach Nook.
7. Given the costs of docks I don't think it would be cost effective to install additional docks. There is also the issue of safety with the proximity of boats and swimming area.
8. The City has budgeted funds for the Beach Nook for advertising and maintenance.

Mayor Oberloh noted that the arrangement had been that the City would not charge rent for the facility providing the operator was responsible for maintaining the beach area and cleaning the restrooms. Council Member Graber noted the business was recently listed in the paper for sale, so how does that apply to these requests? Mr. Clark replied the idea was to improve the facility in an attempt to get more people there and make it more sustaining. Council agreed they need to determine where they want to go with the Beach Nook - either improve it and look at a potential subsidy, or get rid of the facility so it doesn't become a crime area - consider a long term plan for that facility and beach area. Mr. Clark and Brian Kolander, Finance Director, along with Council Members Kuhle and Nelson, will visit with the current operators to see what their thoughts are.

#### Senior Center

Mayor Oberloh pointed out that he requested this item to be added for discussion based on what he's heard about lack of support for the facility - specifically, complaints about the \$30 annual

membership fee and the \$2 charge for playing cards. Council Member Graber expressed concern that we will eventually get to the point where we will be subsidizing more members than there will be those who pay. Council suggested we need to get them over the “card playing - pool playing” mentality, and get going with expanded programming. Craig Clark, City Administrator, reminded Council that the \$30 annual membership rate is still heavily subsidized, and added he’s been told that new people don’t always get a “warm welcome” from the current members there. Council Member Graber said she would like to put some emphasis on Senior Dining, which is scheduled to start there May 1<sup>st</sup>, hoping that it will bring in some new people. Handicap parking at the facility also needs to be increased.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Sankey, seconded by Council Member Nelson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 a.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC  
City Clerk