

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, JUNE 28, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following Council Members present: Larry Janssen, Alan Oberloh, Chad Cummings, Amy Ernst, Mike Harmon.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Jason Brisson, Director of Community Development, Planning, Zoning and Building Services; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Logan Ahlers; Justine Wettschreck, KWOA; Karl Evers-Hillstrom, The Globe.

LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROJECTS AND BUDGET

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said Council needs to finalize the list of projects and budgets for what we're going to present to the voters in November. Logan Ahlers has completed an on-line survey of what people would like to see for projects and will be providing that information. The four projects and budgets identified at the last meeting to be included are:

- Aquatic Center \$4.5 million
- Field House \$3.0 million
- Park Improvements (Ehlers) \$4.5 million
- Lake Quality Improvement \$4.2 million

Total for those projects is \$16.2 million - the total of the proposed bond will be \$20 million, which leaves \$3.8 million to be decided. The remaining projects to be decided are the 10 Street Pavilion, and the Ice Arena.

10th Street Pavilion

The project came in at \$1.8 million and the Community Growth Committee is wrestling with that cost. Council discussed scaling the project back for now, putting in \$600,000 - \$300,000 for the paving and \$300,000 for restrooms. It could be laid out to plan for adding a pavilion structure in the future. Green space and the end of Tenth Street by the railroad would also be addressed.

Logan Ahlers provided information on the results of a five-question survey he conducted. The first question was to rank the projects that had been identified by the City, with the results as follows:

1. Aquatic Center
2. Ehlers Park Improvements (including a restaurant)
3. Water Quality Improvements
4. Indoor Athletic and Recreation Field House
5. 10th Street Pavilion
6. Ice Arena

Mr. Ahlers said the last question on the survey was age range, so he could break the results down by age groups.

The third question was open-ended - *besides a movie theater, what does Worthington need most?* He received a lot of responses - some negative, some positive. There were 448 respondents to the survey.

The second question was, *if there was an aquatic center constructed, would you object to expanding the current aquatic center at the Y* - 47% said yes - 52% said no. Broken down by age groups, it was the older group that objected.

The fourth question was, *would you vote yes or no on the City referendum to raise the sales tax by one-half percent for 15 years to raise funds to pay for these projects* - 83% said yes - 16% said no. Mr. Ahlers said he would put all of the information together and forward it to Mr. Robinson.

Following additional discussion, Council determined to add \$700,000 to the list from the sales tax to be used for improvements to the pavilion area, and to use funds from the Community Growth Committee now and supplant as the sales tax money comes in.

Ice Arena

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said he and Council Members Oberloh and Cummings met yesterday with Arena supporters and others, including some of the original people involved with the facility. They discussed the City's involvement in ownership, which they were open to. A review of their financial statement showed a profit over the past four years, however, nothing was going back into the facility itself. A longer season is not practical with the current facility.

Mayor Kuhle said he would like to keep the money for this project in the sales tax list as it provides significant winter indoor activity - but he's not sure that the City should be involved in the ownership. Council Members Cummings and Oberloh disagreed, stating City ownership is very critical. They are not making enough for the building fund, and the hockey group knew they would be turning it over at some point. Council Members Janssen and Harmon agreed. Council Member Cummings pointed out that the dollars brought in to the community by that facility is huge. The Hockey Association currently has a 99 year lease with the Fair Board.

Council consensus was to put it back in to the sales tax projects at \$2.2 million, but put it in as the Ice Arena instead of Hockey Arena. That brings the total to \$19.1 million for the projects, leaving \$900,000 still available. Mayor Kuhle asked about putting something in to any athletic facilities. Following discussion, it was determined to change the Ehlers Park Improvements project to Park and Recreation Projects, and put the remaining \$900,000 into that fund, bringing it to \$5.4 million, and the total to \$20 million.

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ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Janssen, seconded by Council Member Oberloh and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 a.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk