

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING, JULY 15, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following Council Members present: Alan Oberloh; Amy Ernst; Mike Harmon; Larry Janssen; Chad Cummings.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator, Jason Brisson, Assistant City Administrator/Director of Economic Development; Jeremiah Cromie, City Planner; Angela Thiner, Assistant City Clerk.

Others present: Justine Wettschrek, Radio Works, Ryan McGaughey, The Globe.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS RECEIVED  
THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT  
(CARES ACT)**

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, explained that on June 25<sup>th</sup>, the State of Minnesota announced that \$841 million will be distributed to MN counties, cities and towns to support local government coronavirus relief efforts. Of those funds, the City of Worthington received \$1,017,847 with Nobles County receiving \$2,670,655. Funds may be spent on eligible uses of qualifying costs of which the City has incurred expenses that both qualify and are eligible. Of the eligible expenses, “Economic Support” allows CARES Act funds to be used to provide grants to small businesses that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. Steve noted, according to information provided by the Chamber, there are 440 businesses within the City of Worthington. Staff would like to see roughly 80% of the funds go towards local businesses with the remaining 20% for the city’s qualifying, eligible expenses.

Discussion took place regarding working with Nobles County to distribute funds to local businesses. Details of the application process are still in the works. Mayor Kuhle suggested a council member be involved with the application process.

Council Member Cummings noted he would be in favor of collaborating with Nobles County.

Council Member Oberloh stated he wanted to make sure all City owned facilities were included when figuring out the total for the city’s share. Steve stated all public facilities would be addressed first for expenses related to safety precautions.

Council Member Oberloh stated he is in support of going forward with the local economic stimulus. Council Member Cummings also voiced his support for going forward. Steve Robinson stated roughly \$700,000 would go towards local small businesses while the remaining \$300,000 would be for the all City owned facilities.

**HOTEL THOMPSON GRANT AGREEMENT (CLARK PROPERTIES LLC)**

Council passed a resolution at their October 28, 2019 meeting directing staff to use the leftover funds from TIF District 4 as a grant for Clark Unlimited Properties LLC to assist with repairs to the Hotel Thompson building. Council clarified the grant funds were not to be disbursed until the City received its first-half tax settlement from Nobles County, which included the payment to the City for the City’s assessment on the

building. The City received its first-half tax settlement from Nobles County on June 19.

Jason Brisson presented a grant agreement totaling \$103,560.00 between Clark Unlimited Properties, LLC and the City of Worthington.

A motion was made by Council Member Oberloh, seconded by Council Member Harmon and unanimously carried to approve the grant agreement between Clark Unlimited Properties, LLC and the City of Worthington.

### **INOPERABLE VEHICLES DISCUSSION**

Staff has received multiple complaints regarding inoperable vehicles sitting outside at vehicle repair shops for extended periods of time. Owners of the offending vehicle repair shops have received letters but have taken little action to clean-up their lots. Outside parking of disabled vehicles in residential or commercial districts for more than 2 weeks is prohibited by city code.

In response to questions from Council Member Cummings, staff noted the complaints are being caused by inoperable vehicles outside of vehicle repair shops, not so much in residential areas at this time. Staff discussed difficulties with enforcing this part of the city code without having a staff person on hand to inspect the lots on a daily basis. Staff also discussed only allowing auto repair businesses by conditional use permit only, making it easier to place conditions on this specific type of business.

Mayor Kuhle suggested requiring some type of screening. Council Member Ernst noted any conditions would need to be consistent.

Council Member Oberloh recommended city staff research what other communities are doing for enforcement that has shown to be effective.

### **OCCUPIED TRAILERS DISCUSSION**

Staff has been made aware of at least 3 instances of people occupying and living in trailers/recreation vehicles on commercial lots for more than 72 hours, which is prohibited by City Code. Staff has contacted all 3 owners in these situations and received no compliance with moving them.

Discussion took place regarding changes that could be made to the City Code to be less restrictive but still maintain the integrity of the residential neighborhoods.

Council Member Cummings stated he would like staff to research what how other communities are dealing with this issue. Council Member Oberloh stated he agreed with Cummings recommendation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Angela Thiner  
Assistant City Clerk