

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 4, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Aldermen present: Lyle Ten Haken, Mike Woll, Ron Wood, Mike Kuhle, Bob Petrich.

Nobles County Commissioners present: Marv Zylstra, Dave Benson, Norm Gallagher, Diane Thier, Vern Leistico.

City Staff present: Gary Hoffmann, Interim Administrator; Mike Cumiskey, Director of Public Safety; Brett Wiltrout, Kirk Honius, Gary Gerdes, Bill Bolt, Jason Beckmann, Chris Dybevick, Kevin Flynn, Tim Gaul, Kirk Schelhaas (7:23 a.m.), Public Safety Department; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Nobles County Staff present: Melvin Ruppert, Administrator; Sheriff Kent Wilkening and one other member of the Nobles County Sheriff's office.

Others present: Justine Wettschreck, Daily Globe; Glenn Thuringer, WREDC (8:18 a.m.).

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM/COMPUTER-AIDED DISPATCH/MOBILE DATA COMPUTERS

Mike Cumiskey, Director of Public Safety, related that he and Sheriff Kent Wilkening had earlier made this presentation to the Joint Law Enforcement Center Committee. The original idea was to put computers in the squads with the officers in a Council approved pilot program approximately four years ago, but in going through the program it was discovered the system linking the computers to the LEC's server was not as good as the vendor claimed it was. After that pilot project, a task force was established to look at full integration of the records management system and a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, and putting the computers into the squad cars. The task force looked at several systems and settled on a system by a group out of the Twin Cities. The system was brought back for a full demonstration before the Law Enforcement Committee, who then requested additional information. It was brought back to them again earlier this year and it was decided to bring it to full Council and Commission together.

Chief Cumiskey distributed a spread sheet regarding the costs of just under \$700,000, which includes full integration. The feasibility of breaking it down into a three-year plan was looked at, where the records management system would come first, then the computer aided dispatch system, and the final stage would be integrating the computer into the squad cars. The three-year plan would allow familiarity to creep into the system. Sheriff Wilkening noted, however, that although the project can be done this way it is not recommended. The costs of the system were broken down into the City Share (\$374,733.95), County Share (\$321,126.95), and Shared by Both (\$290,131.00).

Council, Commission, and staff discussed the system costs, cost savings, interoperability with the state system, the pros and cons of leasing, and possibly bonding for the equipment. Sheriff

Wilkening noted he had already budgeted for his half of the system in his budget, however, Chief Cumiskey said he would not add it to his budget unless Council approved of moving forward with it. Alderman Ten Haken and Commissioner Thier both agreed that the financing side of it is a huge challenge. Mayor Oberloh suggested the County Administrator, Interim City Administrator and City Finance Director get together with Bond Counsel to discuss bonding. Chief Cumiskey suggested that after that group meets it could go back to the Joint Law Enforcement Committee for their recommendation to City Council and Nobles County Commissioners. Mel Ruppert reminded the group that the levy needs to be set by September.

PUBLIC PURPOSE - FORMER CAMPBELL SOUP LOCATION

Council and Commission discussed whether there was any interest in locating a new library to the former Campbell Soup location, which would also serve as the public purpose on the site regarding the \$800,000 grant received for the demolition on that property. The Library currently also houses the Art Center, which would prefer to stay where they are, and the Historical Society. Commissioner Thier noted she would like to see the Historical Society at Pioneer Village and the Art Center at the College, which would double the space for the Library at the current location. Mel Ruppert said they need to have a functionality assessment done on the current library, but his speculation is a new facility would not be on the same site. Unfortunately, the time lines for the City and the County do not match up, but Mr. Ruppert said they could still move forward with the assessment of the library.

VOICE OVER INTERNET

Discussion was held on voice over internet. The County changed over to this system last year and the Law Enforcement Committee has been briefed on it. The Police Department waited to go to the system as it requires a change in telephone numbers and there was some concern with the 911 and some of the non-emergency numbers. They did go through the pilot project and it was voted on by the Law Enforcement Committee. The phones would be a big investment up front but there would be savings down the road with no long distance charges and the availability of information. Some of the staff have tried out the phones and they seem to be working correctly. Commissioner Benson voiced his support for the system. Nobles County is on the system except for Law Enforcement. There will be down times with the system but two of the current lines will be kept for those times. Estimated cost for the City to go on the system is about \$12,000 and it will be just under \$16,000 for Nobles County to go on the system. Alderman Woll said he thought it is more a budgetary decision based on payback.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEVY

Glenn Thuringer, WREDC, was present at the meeting to discuss a possible Economic Development levy. He noted the contribution to WREDC from the supporting entities has basically remained the same in the 10 years he's been there, and we need to step up support. There was at one time an

additional contribution of approximately \$10 to \$12 thousand from each of the entities for marketing, which is no longer available. Mr. Thuringer said we're now back down to about \$36 thousand from each entity, but over a four year span, WREDC has brought in about \$3.8 million. Council discussed the figures provided by Mr. Thuringer and expressed concern that any Economic Development levy would make up a big percentage of what we can levy. Mayor Oberloh noted funding to WREDC has come up in the discussions concerning use of the hospital sale proceeds. Alderman Kuhle said there's no reason the City and WREDC can't work together if we set aside something for economic development.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Alderman Woll, seconded by Alderman Petrich and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

Janice Oberloh
City Clerk