

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 21, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.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, Assistant City Administrator/Director of Economic Development ; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Dwayne Haffield, Engineer; Troy Appel, Police Chief; Kevin Flynn, Captain; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others present: Leah Ward, The Globe; Justine Wettshreck, Radio Works; Chris Lewis; Chris Dybevick; Edison Dengler.

BIDS FOR 2019 SANITARY AND STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS REJECTED

Dwayne Haffield, City Engineer, explained one bid for the 2019 Sanitary and Storm Sewer Improvements project was received on August 15, 2019. The bid of \$348,125.50 from Duininck, Inc. was \$151,698.55 (77%) over the engineer's estimate. It is recommended the bid be rejected and the project be readvertised this winter.

Mr. Haffield noted the abstract of bids (unit prices) was provided separately. Such information is not public data until the bids are awarded or the project is abandoned and should not be shared with others.

A motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Harmon and unanimously carried to reject the bid for the 2019 Sanitary Storm Sewer Improvements and readvertise the project this winter.

BID FOR EAST AVENUE SEWER IMPROVEMENT AWARDED

Dwayne Haffield, City Engineer, explained two bids for the East Avenue Sewer Improvements project were received on August 15, 2019. The bids and engineer's estimate are as follows:

Engineers Estimate	Ideal Landscape & Design	Duininck, Inc.
\$64,840.00	\$83,611.00	\$116,489.00

Mr. Haffield said after evaluation of the bids staff is recommending the award of the bid to Ideal Landscape & Design.

A motion was made by Council Member Oberloh, seconded by Council Member Janssen and unanimously approved to award the East Avenue Sewer Improvement to Ideal Landscape & Design.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-08-043 ADOPTED DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED AND ORDERING PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT AND RESOLUTION NO. 2019-08-44 ADOPTED CALLING FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT

Dwayne Haffield, City Engineer stated information has been provided that Lighthouse Management Group intends to conduct an auction to sell the property. Mark Shepherd, counsel for this matter, has recommend that the City commence the assessment procedure as soon as possible. For that reason the assessment process for these unpaid costs are being initiated at this time. Staff recommends that Council pass the Resolution Declaring Costs to be Assessed and Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment, and the Resolution Calling for Hearing on Proposed Assessment.

Jason Brisson, Assistant City Administrator/Director of Economic Development, stated that all of the legal fees, roof improvements and the remediation of pests contracted with Plunketts is included in the total cost of the assessments which are approximately \$183,000. Staff time is not included in this amount at this time.

A motion was made by Council Member Oberloh, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolutions declaring cost to be assessed and ordering preparation of proposed assessment and calling for hearing on proposed assessment.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-08-43

DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED AND ORDERING PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-08-44

CALLING FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

UPDATE ON THOMPSON HOTEL

Jason Brisson, Assistant City Administrator/Director of Economic Development, explained that he met with Graff Auction Service on August 20, 2019. The Thompson Hotel has been listed and the opening bid is ten cents, the auction will be active until September 12th. The hearings will be held on August 9th for the assessments and at the end of the day on September 12th will be sold to the highest bidder.

Mr. Brisson explained after the auction closes the sale is subject to court approval. At that time the judge will distribute the proceeds. The receiver has indicated that they will ask the judge to move that the land be free and clear of encumbrances after the sale. The City is not guaranteed the reimbursement of the assessments and Council will have to decide if they would want staff to contest the sale but will have to wait to see what the selling price is.

HEARD BUFFALO RIDGE DRUG TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

Chris Lewis, Buffalo Ridge Task Force Commander introduced himself, Edison Dengler, Task Force Canine Agent and Chris Dybevic, Vice Chairman of the task force.

Mr. Dengler explained that the Task Force covers the cities of Worthington, Slayton, Fulda and Adrian which serves a population of approximately 40,000 people. The task force has six full-time agents, one from Nobles County, one from Pipestone County, two from Murray County and two from the Worthington Police Department. The task force runs under a Joint Powers governing board that is made up of the chiefs and sheriffs along with a designated attorney from Murray County.

The Buffalo Ridge Task Force is a violent crimes task force and assists all agencies in our areas with various types of investigations.

The task force does presentations for schools, local groups and will also sit down with parents to inform them of new trends. The BDRTF also has a cell phone app that can be used to submit anonymous tips. Any type of tip can be texted and will be forwarded on to the correct department. Mr. Lewis stated that flyers will be placed in schools and on area bulletin boards to get the information out.

In the last fourteen years there have been 5,571 active investigations, approximately \$3.6 million dollars have been confiscated along with 340 firearms. The most popular drugs in the area are marijuana, meth and prescription drugs.

Chris Lewis, Commander, stated that in 2018 there were 136 arrests, 257 new investigations, with 69 consent searches and 74 search warrants.

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, stated that the 2018 Crime Report was just received from the FBI/BCA and in comparing the City of Worthington to 10-12 area cities in the southern region with populations comparable to our city, Worthington had the second lowest crime rate. Mr. Robinson said he likes to contribute that to having the Buffalo Ridge Task Force.

Chris Dybevic, Vice Chairmn of the Task Force, said they appreciate the City serving as the fiscal agent and would like to keep the Council informed by coming each year to do an update.

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ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Janssen, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers MCMC
City Clerk