

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 3, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Aldermen present: Lyle Ten Haken, Mike Kuhle, Scott Nelson, Ron Wood, Mike Woll.

2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Economic Development Levy

Glenn Thuringer, Worthington Regional Economic Development (WREDC) Director, spoke to Council regarding a possible economic development levy. Mr. Thuringer noted the levy is allowable under Minn. Stat. § 469.107 at a rate of not more than 0.01813% of the taxable market value. In addition, Minn. Stat. § 469.097 allows for cities to contract for economic development services, where he would hope the City would contract with WREDC. His proposal would phase out the current City general fund contribution over a four year period. Council discussed the proposal with Mr. Thuringer and thanked him for his time.

Community/Economic Development

Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development, noted that they are bringing in additional amounts in building permit fees, resulting in an additional \$19,000 or \$20,000 for this year. Regarding rental registrations - there are 1,250 registered units of which 70% are certified and the others are under repair or in prosecution. Mr. Chapulis stated he had delayed hiring the half-year planning position due to LGA cuts, but has added it back in to the 2010 as a full time position for 12 months. They are evaluating the Building Inspector's car for in-town and out-of-town travel. Council discussed the community/economic development budget, noting the additional position might be something to consider with the WREDC presentation.

Parks and Recreation

Jim Laffrenzen, Public Works Director, noted the pool is done, and the slide was sold via the internet for \$20,000. The funds will be used to pay back the 401 Construction Fund. A possible use of the fencing from the pool could be a sale and then apply those funds to the puppy park, and will come to Council at a later date. Mr. Laffrenzen listed possible revenues noting that they are looking at charging Worthington Public Utilities for services as he is no longer using as much of their equipment. The YMCA is proposing a 3% increase in fees for the recreation and adult softball programs. Although this will probably be the last year for the Beach Nook, the \$5,000 subsidy has been included in the 2010 budget.

Council discussed a list of suggestions from the Park and Recreation Advisory Board compiled after the Advisory Board's July 2009 tour of parks. A brief discussion was held on planning for the Emerald Ash Borer with Scott Rosenberg, Parks Superintendent.

Engineering

Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering, discussed capital improvement projects at the airport, noting that while the Taxi C project is the lowest priority it could be moved up by the FAA if the experience/crash rate goes up. The T Hangar entrance road project will eliminate a blind spot, and it is hoped to have the project completed by June of 2010. The impact to the levy after using monies left over from other projects and 90% State Aid looks like about \$10,000. Funding for the 2011 apron project may not be there.

Mr. Haffield reported on his proposed 2010 Operating Budget, noting the additional employee was once again not included, there is nothing in the ERS for 2010, and the CIP Contract Maintenance is the same at \$400,000. Much of the Capital Reserve costs for the Ryan's Road project is right-of-way. Mr. Haffield noted the intent with the 27th Street (west) improvements was to assess the City/EDAU property and when the property was sold the assessments would go with it. The north side becomes City share and they will be bringing assessments to Council this fall for the improvements, which will be levied against the EDAU. It is estimated the assessment will be approximately \$197,000 over 15 years, based on original estimates.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Alderman Kuhle, seconded by Alderman Ten Haken and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Janice Oberloh
City Clerk