

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Council Members present: Lyle Ten Haken, Mike Kuhle, Scott Nelson, Mike Woll (arrived at 7:10 a.m.). Council Members absent: Ron Wood (excused).

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Justine Wettshreck, KWOA; Greg Raymo.

WREDC DISCUSSION - DIRECTION AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEPARTURE

Discussion was held on economic development in the city and what direction the City of Worthington would look towards in the future with the recent announcement by Glenn Thuringer, Executive Director of Worthington Regional Economic Development Corporation, of his departure from that organization.

Greg Raymo was present at the meeting and noted that this would be the ideal time to look at the WREDC model and see if what we're doing is working. Mr. Raymo expressed concern regarding accountability and lack of participation at the meetings from the private sector, and noted politics are always being played at the meetings with on going bickering between the City and the County. He believes the model is not working, and encouraged Council to look at bringing the economic development into the City, and letting the private sector then step up to the plate and organize into their own group. Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development, noted the most successful models out there for economic development are private sector driven.

Mr. Raymo suggested that a conversation be had with the private sector for their thoughts, that Council should not act on his opinion alone. Mr. Raymo said he would be happy to meet with the other stakeholders, while the City will meet with the private sector. Craig Clark, City Administrator, noted that Council Member Wood related that the Water and Light Commission had already had this conversation, and their preference was to leave it at WREDC.

At the request of Mayor Oberloh, Mr. Chapulis noted he could obtain models from other cities, but added that the changes will not happen overnight - it will take a lot of time and due process.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Ten Haken, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 a.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk