

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 6, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Pro Tem Lyle Ten Haken with the following Aldermen present: Mike Kuhle, Scott Nelson, Ron Wood, Mike Woll. Honorary Council Person: Mike Hokeness.

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development, Alice Hoffman Senior Center Coordinator, and Mindy Eggers, Assistant City Clerk.

Others present: Stephen Sherf, Hospitality Consulting Group, Inc., Jorge Lopez, Worthington Housing & Redevelopment Authority, and Laura Grevas, Daily Globe.

DISCUSSION WITH EVENT CENTER CONSULTANT

Stephen Sherf, Hospitality Consulting Group, Inc. was present to visit with Council and get the perspective on the communities needs for an event center. Mr. Sherf stated that he will be in Worthington a couple of days to visit with different groups, committees, and business owners to get an understanding of the community and to find out where Worthington falls in the market area. Mr. Sherf explained that there are different options that can be explored as a free standing event center, an attached hotel to the events center and the need for a restaurant within the hotel or one that has a stand alone appearance. Mr. Sherf stated that the most profitable option is one that has a stand alone appearance. In his research he will be able to find out the optimal size that our city would be able to support, considering that we are in an excellent area off of the interstate. After discussion by the Council they agreed that more details can be discussed after the final report is received from the consultant. At that point Council will be able to move forward on marketing the project to developers.

OPTIONS FOR FORMER YMCA REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development explained that Jorge Lopez from the Worthington Housing and Redevelopment Authority is here to present a private and public purpose option for the old YMCA Redevelopment Plan. Mr. Lopez presented the public purpose option to the Council. This option would allow for multi-purpose areas that could be used for many different ages. The council agreed that the building could be defined as public purpose facility, allowing the Worthington Regional Housing & Development Authority to move forward with a DEED Grant that if awarded could result in significant dollars to go towards the redevelopment project. Craig Clark, City Administrator stated that staff is seeking council direction to move forward with the purchase of the previous YMCA building, Clark explained that the property needs to be under a purchase agreement or acquired before the grant could be applied for. It was agreed upon by Council to direct staff to continue the process of acquiring the property so the grant application process could begin.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Alderman Wood, seconded by Alderman Nelson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Mindy Eggers
Assistant City Clerk