

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, OCTOBER 18, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Pro Tem Larry Janssen with the following Council Members present: Alan Oberloh, Chad Cummings, Amy Ernst, Mike Harmon. Honorary Council Member: Bob Wethor. Council Members absent: Mike Kuhle (excused).

Staff members present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Jason Brisson, Director of Community Development, Planning, Zoning and Building Services; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Justine Wettschreck, KWOA; Karl Evers-Hillstrom, The Globe; Chad Nixon, Doug Tate, Dan Livdahl, Jay Milbrandt, Chris Kielblock, Mike Woll (3:40 p.m.).

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS

King Turkey Day Presentation - Chad Nixon and Doug Tate, representing the King Turkey Day Board, presented information to Council regarding revenues and expenses for the celebration, and how they've evolved over the past few years. A handout of Annual Financials for the years 2012 through 2016 was provided. Mr. Tate noted that with the closing of the bowling alley they lost one of their biggest fund raising events. It has also been increasingly difficult to provide a carnival for children as most of them have traveled to the south by this time of the year. The moving of the festival back to the downtown area was based on the sentiment from the community, but providing the electrical hookups, generators and spider boxes is expensive, as is the cost of the tent for the beer garden. They would like to have the utility department step up and provide those connections for them, and while they have not made a formal request, they have visited with the General Manager about it. Steve Robinson, City Administrator, provided a review of the contributions the City currently provides. Council Member Ernst inquired as to what the Committee was requesting. Mr. Tate said they would like \$15,000, but would be happy with five or ten. Mr. Robinson said he would revisit the statutes regarding donation limitations.

Okabena-Ocheda Prairie View Presentation - Dan Livdahl and Jay Milbrandt provided a handout on their proposal for a partnership between the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed and the City of Worthington for the Prairie View Recreation Area. Mr. Milbrandt said their intent was to preserve the asset for the community while providing an area for hiking, biking, walking, hunting, etc., and to provide a place for our cross-country team. Members of that team and their coaches entered the Council Chambers and provided their support of using Prairie View. An additional disc golf course could also be added. Their proposal provided four options: 1) a Permanent Easement - provided to the Watershed for approximately 41.3 acres for construction and operation and maintenance of the water quality ponds; 2) Sell or Swap the North Portion - the City could continue to own the 41.3 acres in the easement and sell or trade the remaining acres to the Watershed; 3) Sell or swap the entire property (approximately 124 acres) to the Watershed; or 4) City owned, Watershed advised. Information was provided on potential properties to swap. Keeping the property in permanent vegetation will require reseeding the entire site. Land preparation, seeding, spraying and mowing for two years would be approximately \$37,750 to \$50,600, depending on the type of seed mix planted. Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, mentioned the recent conversations with the Boy

Scouts for their use of the clubhouse and some of the other buildings at Prairie View. Mr. Milbrandt and Mr. Livdahl stated the watershed has no desire to have or manage the buildings there, and they it would be good to have the Scouts there to assist with trail grooming and other maintenance . Mr. Milbrandt added that he envisions eventually connecting Prairie View to the bike trail system in the city. Mr. Robinson asked if the Watershed had any funds that could be used for the planting. They responded yes, for one or two years, but they would need help with the maintenance, etc.

Establish Lake Amenities Committee - Mayor Pro Tem Janssen noted this item would be pulled from the agenda as it was brought forward by the Mayor and he was absent.

Tenth Avenue Bridge - Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said that staff will be bringing forward a proposal for replacing the bridge, which would not necessarily be a promise to do it. The bridge design is completed but the street design is not. The estimated cost of the bridge replacement and a short portion of the street is \$960,000, and \$1.3 if the project involves a longer street portion. What we've put in for the bridge bonding fund is \$630,000 that is in the Que, but it depends on how much money the state puts in to the bridge bond fund. Of that, we would receive anywhere from 80 to 100%. If we fund it ourselves we would be looking at a 10 year bond at 3.5% - with a payment of \$115 per year, or it would be a \$83,000 per year for 15 years. That's a 3.5% impact to the levy. Discussion was held on bridge design, the walk bridge near the lake, and grants that may be available for the project. Mr. Robinson said staff will bring a proposal to Council, and would review the plans and designs that had been completed initially.

Snow Emergency Information - Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, presented information from the City's snow removal policy, which provides for the ability to declare a snow emergency where all vehicles would be required to be off the streets for curb to curb cleaning following a snow event. Mr. Wietzema said he is not proposing to change anything in the City's policy, but will be implementing the snow emergency procedure more frequently. A notice would be provided to the residents a minimum of four hours prior to the start of the plowing through several avenues of advertising including radio, television, social media and the police alert program - the emergency status would expire 48 hours later unless terminated earlier. With an average snow fall, Mr. Wietzema said he could easily have the town plowed in eight hours. Cars parked illegally during the emergency would be ticketed and eventually towed if necessary. Mr. Wietzema said they could get the city cleaned in eight hours if the streets were free of cars.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Oberloh, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk