

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, OCTOBER 18, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Rick Von Holdt with the following members present: Chris Kielblock; Chad Cummings; Amy Ernst; Alaina Kolpin. Larry Janssen (excused).

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Steve Schnieder, City Engineer, Hyunmyeong Goo, Assistant City Engineer; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Sam Martin, The Globe; Braden Hoefert, Nobles County Attorney.

NOBLES COUNTY ATTORNEY LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT APPROVED

Braden Hoefert, Nobles County Attorney presented information on the proposed legal services agreement that would commence on January 1, 2024 and continue through December 31, 2028. He said the Nobles County Attorney's office prosecutes criminal offenses and the processing of associated forfeiture procedures on behalf of the City.

He explained the City of Worthington cases average between 30-33 percent of the County Attorney's operating budget and with the increase in Worthington cases they are asking for an increase of 5% which would bring it to 30 percent of the annual budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to approve and authorize execution of the legal services agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10-46 ADOPTED APPROVING STATE OF MINNESOTA JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON ON BEHALF OF ITS CITY ATTORNEY AND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Hoefert explained the resolution and State of MN Joint Powers Agreement which allows Nobles County to work with the BCA.

A motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve the State of MN Joint Powers Agreement and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10-46

A RESOLUTION APPROVING STATE OF MINNESOTA JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON ON BEHALF OF ITS CITY ATTORNEY AND POLICE DEPARTMENT

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

COURT DATA SERVICES SUBSCRIBER AMENDMENT TO CJDN SUBSCRIBER AGREEMENT

Mr. Hoefert said this is an addendum to the original CJDN Agreement Council approved. It covers information with the BCA and the addendum will cover court data under the Data Practices Act which is classified information.

A motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Kolpin and unanimously carried to approve the Court Data Services Subscriber Amendment to the CJDN Subscriber Agreement.

DISCUSSION HELD REGARDING UPGRADES TO THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER AUDIO-VISUAL TECHNOLOGY AND/OR STUDY OF JOINT AGENCY MEETING FACILITY

Mr. Robinson said the audio-visual equipment currently in use in the City Council Chambers is outdated and in need of upgrades and modernization. In the past, discussion was held about a possible common meeting space that would be done jointly with other public entities but nothing had transpired. He said staff would like direction from the Council to either move forward with requesting proposals to upgrade the current council chambers or begin discussions with other entities that may lead to a joint meeting facility.

Council Member Ernst said she likes the idea of a common meeting space that could be shared by other entities.

Council Member Kielblock said there is something to be said about having our own meeting space and asked if this had been talked about among staff leadership. Mr. Robinson said not specifically but have had a few conversations about adding more capabilities to the equipment we have and some of the issues with Cable 3.

Council Member Cummings said he feels that we would be taking on another entity's issue if we were to do a joint common meeting space.

Council Member Kolpin said she would need to see costs.

Mr. Kielblock added if we did a joint space we would still need to have the expense of updating our building.

Mr. Robinson said staff would get some cost estimates on a technology upgrade to City Hall.

COUNTY DITCH 12 FLOOD MITIGATION DISCUSSION HELD

Steve Schnieder, City Engineer, said the funding has been approved as part of the federal Protect grant for the purchase of land to construct a flood mitigation pond. The proposed pond would be similar to the pond constructed south of Interstate 90 (I-90) and east of Walmart.

A consultant has been hired to conduct the land survey, an appraisal of the value and meet the federal requirements for purchasing property with federal funds. Space to store stormwater is the current issue preventing the City from moving forward with implementing stormwater improvements in the central part of the community, lying east of Whiskey Ditch, north of the lake and west of McMillan Street.

Mr. Schnieder said the options to meet the storage needs include stormwater ponds and underground storage. Removing homes or other buildings on developed land or using bare ground. Doing nothing is also an option, but this means that flood water will continue to be stored on the streets, property and around buildings in the flood plain. It was determined the best option would be to use bare ground for water storage as it would be the least expensive and least disruptive to the fewest people. Staff has found the only open areas suited for a stormwater pond are along the north side of County Ditch 12, south of Oxford Street, or possibly using an area north of I-90 in the industrial park west of Trunk Highway 59 (TH 59). He explained that to access the land north of TH 59, an additional culvert is needed under Interstate 90 to allow sufficient flow of water to the north. This development area is out of the flood plain and the pond would reduce the land that is available. Land south of Oxford Street is behind a developed area and appears to be lower and less desirable for development. Unfortunately one of the property owners south of Oxford Street has commented that they do not support selling part of their property for a stormwater pond. To purchase this property, an eminent domain most likely will be required.

Council discussed the options and directed staff to weigh the differences between two versus three properties on the south side of Oxford Street keeping eminent domain as an option if using only two properties is not sufficient.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk