

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Aldermen present: Lyle Ten Haken, Mike Kuhle, Ron Wood, Mike Woll. Aldermen absent: Scott Nelson (excused).

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development; Mike Cumiskey, Public Safety Director; Jim Laffrenzen, Public Works Director; Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Laura Grevis, Daily Globe.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION (MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM, STORM WATER AND LIQUOR STORE FUNDS)**

Memorial Auditorium - Reviewed the upcoming program schedule with Margaret Vosburgh, Auditorium Manager - not counting on revenue after June 2010 due to the remodel project. They will be looking at hiring someone to replace Ron Vogel as technician after they get back into the building. The boilers are undergoing maintenance now and are in pretty good shape - they don't need to be replaced according to the plumber.

Storm Water - The proposed 2010 Storm Water budget reflects an increase of 3.9% over the previous year. Council noted this was on track with what was necessary to get where we needed to be with the fund.

Liquor Store - Briefly discussed the increase in the transfer rate, and the additional personnel costs due to the approved move for a part time position to a full time position.

**PLANNING POSITION**

Council and staff discussed the request for an additional Planner position, which has been budgeted for the past few years but not approved to fill. Council requested that Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development, provide them with a job description for the new position and a revised job description of what his duties would be if the position was filled.

**EDA LEVY AND FUNDING TO WREDC**

Council discussed the Economic Development Levy, and the current and future funding to Worthington Regional Economic Development Corporation (WREDC), with Glenn Thuringer, Manager of WREDC. Council also discussed whether there should be some type of oversight to the additional \$46,000 the levy would generate, and whether it would make sense to put a portion into a Capital Improvement pot to build on.

### **ELECTRIC TRANSFER RATE**

Council discussed the notification from Scott Hain, General Manager of Worthington Public Utilities, that based on our mil rate, they are looking at a decrease in the transfer amount of about \$23,000. Discussion included the proposed street lighting utility fund that would be phased in, possibly at 100%. Additional information needs to be obtained from Worthington Public Utilities.

Mayor Oberloh noted at this time that the next two items, *Designate Accounts for WRH Funds and the Unreserved Undesignated Account*, and *Other Overall Levy and Related Budgetary Discussions* would be pulled from the agenda for lack of time.

### **FIRE SERVICE CONTRACTS**

Council discussed the fire service contracts between the City of Worthington and the surrounding communities with Public Safety Director, Mike Cumiskey. A formula devised by the League of Minnesota Cities and agreed on by the Township League indicated a much higher rate than the one we are currently charging. Craig Clark and Mike Cumiskey will meet with the Townships.

### **ASSESSING SERVICE CONTRACT**

Council discussed the Nobles County Assessor's proposed rate of \$106,989 for assessing services, which is down from the initial proposal of \$110,000. The current rate for the Assessor's services is \$99,800, which is approximately \$23 per parcel, while the average rate of the communities who contract with Nobles County is approximately \$15 per parcel. Discussion included hiring a private assessor or performing them in-house. Consensus was to offer them the current rate of \$99,800. If that is not accepted then offer a 3% inflation factor, but if that is not accepted the issue will need to come back to Council.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Alderman Wood, seconded by Alderman Woll and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Janice Oberloh  
City Clerk