

WILLMAR CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BUILDING
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

May 20, 1998
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Lester Heitke. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Heitke, Council Members Verna Kelly, Ron Christianson, Douglas Reese, Richard Halterman, Nancy Houlahan, Vince Van Heuveln, and Rick Fagerlie; Present 8, Absent 1 - Council Member DeBlieck.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Parks and Leisure Services Director Dale Johnson, Public Safety Director Dan Strootman, Public Works Director Mel Odens, Finance Director Steven Okins, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

The Mayor and Council acknowledged volunteers who have completed the second round of training for the People on Watch Program (POW). It was noted there are now 62 POW members. The Mayor encouraged others to consider this program when the next training session is offered.

Council Member Kelly offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of May 6, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of May 11, Rice Hospital Board Minutes of May 13, Building Inspection Report for April, Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board Minutes of April 14, Zoning Appeals Board Minutes of May 4, Senior Center Council Minutes of May 6, Airport Advisory Board Minutes of May 11, Housing Task Force Minutes of May 12, and Planning Commission Minutes of May 13, 1998. Council Member Christianson seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:02 p.m. Mayor Heitke opened the hearing on an Ordinance Extending the Corporate Limits of the City of Willmar. Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented details of the petition filed by Pattison, Taunton and West Central Investors for the annexation of a 9.99-acre tract for the proposed Cub Foods Store. There being no one present to speak for or against the proposed Ordinance, Mayor Heitke closed the hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Council Member Kelly offered a motion to adopt, assign a number and order final publication of the Ordinance Extending the Corporate Limits of the City of Willmar. Council Member Halterman seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

City Administrator Schmit informed the Mayor and Council that the Housing and Redevelopment Authority with support from the City, submitted an application for a Small Cities Grant for the Eastside Neighborhood Rehabilitation Project. The HRA has been notified the application was successful and an agreement with the City is necessary for the administration of the Project funding. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Halterman, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

APPROVING AND AGREEING TO ENTER INTO ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT
FOR SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority In and For the City of Willmar, Minnesota, drafted an application on behalf of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, for the East Side Housing Rehabilitation Project requesting funding via the Small Cities Development Program administered by the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, said application was approved for funding.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Willmar, Minnesota, hereby approves the attached Administrative Contract By and Between the City of Willmar, Minnesota, and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority In and For the City of Willmar, Minnesota (on file in the City Clerk's Office); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, is hereby authorized to execute said agreement.

Dated this 20th day of May, 1998.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of May 12, 1998, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Halterman. There were six items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 John Hafner, representing the Main Street Willmar Design Committee, appeared before the Committee to obtain permission to place four directional signs at the entrance points to the downtown area. Main Street Willmar would purchase and donate the signs, and requested the City provide the posts and labor for installation.

The Committee was recommending to the Council to approve the request subject to review and approval by staff. Council Member Halterman moved to approve the recommendation of the Public Works/Safety Committee with Council Member Christianson seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 2 Don Ericson, Emergency Management Director, reviewed the "Emergency Management Handbook for Government Officials" with the Committee and briefly informed them of drills that have taken place. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 The Committee reviewed a letter outlining the items that are needed for the Flymarket scheduled for September 12, and 13, 1998. The Committee referred the items to staff to coordinate for the event. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 4 Staff informed the Committee that effective January 1, 1998, the statutory municipal tort liability limits increased to \$300,00 per claimant and \$750,000 per occurrence. The City's options were either to follow statutory limits or waive the limits and purchase excess liability coverage.

The Committee was recommending to the Council not to waive the statutory limits. Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Halterman, seconded by Council Member Reese, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS, cities obtaining liability coverage from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust must decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of coverage purchased, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the various options for monetary limits on municipal tort liability.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that the City does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04.

Dated this 20th day of May, 1998.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 5 The Committee considered a request to close Becker Avenue between 6th and 4th Streets SW and 5th Street from Becker to Litchfield Avenues SW from 2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on June 24, 1998, for the Willmar Fests Downtown Block Party. The Committee was recommending to the Council to approve the closing of the streets as requested.

Item No. 6 Staff presented information in relation to the purchase of video cameras for the squad cars. Estimated costs are between \$1,000 - \$5,000 per unit. Staff was directed to contact the City Attorney and bring this item back at a future meeting. This matter was for information only.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of May 12, 1998, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Halterman, seconded by Council Member Christianson, and carried.

The Community Development Committee Report of May 14, 1998, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Christianson. There were three items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Staff presented to the Committee the final Scoping Decision document for the environmental review portion of the new airport project. The document contains responses to all the comments received during the Scoping review period. The Airport Advisory Committee had met earlier in the week and had recommended adoption of the Scoping Decision.

The Committee was recommending to the Council that the Scoping Decision be adopted as presented. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the recommendation of the Community Development Committee with Council Member Reese seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 2 The Committee discussed a number of departmental issues and received an update from staff on a variety of current and pending development projects. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 The Committee discussed the City Attorney's opinion regarding the January 1, 1999, effective date for the proposed ordinance regarding extraterritorial code enforcement. Staff will use the interim period to meet with the County Board and affected Township Boards to discuss the. This matter was for information only.

The Community Development Committee Report of May 14, 1998, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Van Heuveln, and carried.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance, May 26; Housing Code Appeals Board, May 26; and Community Development, May 28, 1998.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Reese, and carried.

Attest:

MAYOR

SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL