

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

August 16, 2000
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, Bruce DeBlieck, Douglas Reese, Denis Anderson, Nancy Houlahan, Jim Dokken, and Rick Fagerlie; Present 9, Absent 0.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Police Chief Jim Kulset, Fire Chief Marv Calvin, City Engineer Mel Odens, Finance Director Steven Okins, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Proposed additions to the agenda included John Dean representing the West Central Concert Series, Celebrate Art announcement, and sewer line repairs tabled earlier.

Council Member Kelly offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of August 2, Rice Hospital Board Minutes of August 9, Building Inspection Report for July, Human Rights Commission Minutes of April 18, Pioneerland Library Board Minutes of June 27, Housing and Redevelopment Authority Minutes of July 11, and Senior Center Council Minutes of August 2, 2000; and Exemption from Lawful Gambling for Main Street Willmar. Council Member Reese seconded the motion, which carried.

Council Member Anderson offered a motion to remove from the table the matter of sewer repair costs. Council Member Houlahan seconded the motion, which carried. Following discussion, Council Member Anderson moved to refer the cost of sewer repairs to the Finance Committee for consideration. Council Member Houlahan seconded the motion, which carried.

Mayor Heitke recognized John Dean, President of the West Central Concert Series, who presented a cash donation of \$2,000.00 to the City to help with the Willmar Education and Arts Center parking lot and lighting project. This contribution would be used to help fund the decorative lighting in the parking lot. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS, the West Central Concert Series has agreed to donate funds for the purchase of decorative lights at the Willmar Education and Arts Center at a total cost of \$2,000.00;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the City accept the donation from the West Central Concert Series and that the City Administrator be directed to express the community's appreciation to the West Central Concert Series for their contribution for upgrading and improving the City's overall arts program.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2000.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

At 7:08 p.m. Mayor Heitke opened a special assessment hearing for unpaid weed and grass mowing. City Clerk Halliday informed the Mayor and Council that pursuant to Willmar Municipal Code, Chapter 9, Article III concerning the cutting of weeds or grass, and in the case of noncompliance, such work to be performed by the City or its agent, the costs thereof can be certified as a special assessment against the property. A notice of a hearing was given to affected property owners to voice their objections to the proposed mowing assessment. No one was present and the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Kelly, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS, Section 9.41 of the Willmar City Code states that such unpaid weed or grass mowing bills represent a lien of the real property receiving mowing services; and

WHEREAS, THE City Council of the City of Willmar has offered the owner his right to request an appearance before the Council to make objections to payment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that the amount of the unpaid utility charges totaling \$934.74 be certified to the County Auditor to be extended on the tax rolls of such real property in the same manner as other taxes for collecting in 2001 and collected by the County Treasurer, and paid to the City Clerk-Treasurer along with other taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the unpaid weed or grass charges by certified against the real property as follows:

1. Parcel No. 95-003-0770 \$130.54
Located at 814 Campbell Avenue Northwest; and
Described as Willmar, Town of (Original), Block 007, Lots 7 & 8
2. Parcel No. 95-740-1740 \$75.00
Located at 601 4th Street Southeast; and
Described as Spicer's Addition, Block 011, Lot 014
3. Parcel No. 95-450-0270 \$32.00
Located at 129 Ella Avenue Northeast; and
Described as Lakeside Addition, Block 002, Lots 17 & 18
4. Parcel No. 95-015-0380 \$106.66
Located at 409 15th Street Southwest; and
Described as Fourth Railroad Addition, Block 003, Lot 012
5. Parcel No. 95-250-0440 \$75.00
Located at 812 6th Street Southeast; and
Described as Glarum's Addition, Block 003, Lot 004
6. Parcel No. 95-220-1910 \$235.00
Located at 402 Ann Street; and
Described as Ferring's Addition, Block 013, East 100 feet of Lots 1 & 2
7. Parcel No. 95-820-0450 \$210.54

Located at 621 7th Street Northwest; and
Described as Thorpe and Lien's Addition, Block 003, North ½ of N 65/66
of Lot 2

Dated this 16th day of August, 2000.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Mayor Heitke acknowledged that no one had signed up to address the City Council during its scheduled Open Forum.

Mayor Heitke recognized Rochelle Peterson representing PACT4 Families who presented details of a new program called Community Circles. The program is a new approach to mediating criminal behavior and is slated to begin in Willmar in October and New London and Spicer in September, 2000. Unlike the court system, Community Circles strive to change relationships by changing the circumstances of offenders, victims and their respective communities. This matter was received for information only.

Mayor Heitke presented to the Council the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Report, informing the Council of the League's efforts in addressing specific issues affecting member cities. Some services reviewed included research and information, codification and charter services, Y2K compliance assistance and the insurance trust. This matter was for information only.

The Finance Committee Report of August 8, 2000, was presented to the Mayor and City Council by Council Member Kelly. There were six items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Transit Director, John Groothius, appeared before the Committee to present the 2001 budget request as approved by the Kandiyohi Area Transit Joint Powers Board. The original budget recommendation from the Board was in the amount of \$641,074. Of this amount, the City was being asked to fund \$66,708; the County, \$52,414; and the remaining would be funded from the State, transit fares and fund raising.

Since the Joint Powers Board meeting, Mr. Groothius received notification from the State that the amount of State funding was being reduced from \$407,000 to somewhere in the \$390,000 range. This would necessitate the Joint Powers Board to reconfigure the budget as previously discussed.

It was the consensus of the Committee that since the amount of the budget and funding would be changing from the action the Joint Powers Board had taken, the City portion requested should be referred to the Mayor to be included in the 2001 proposed budget. The Committee was recommending to the Council that the Mayor include \$66,708 for the Transit program in his 2001 Proposed Budget. Council Member Kelly moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee with Council Member Houlahan seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 2 The Committee was updated on the status of the Transit System exploring the possibilities of constructing and funding a facility of their own to house the transit buses and administrative functions. Mr. Groothius explained that State funding for this type of program has been reduced as well, and the Joint Powers Board would have to reconsider the direction and or size of facility. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 The Committee reviewed a request from the Public Works Director to increase the overtime line item in the Public Works Budget in the amount of \$3,340 to cover billable services not originally in the 2000 budget. The Committee was recommending to the Council to pass a resolution increasing the Public Works budget by \$3,340.00. Resolution No. 3 was introduced by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Houlahan, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar to authorize the Finance Director to make the following changes within the Public Works Department Fund:

Increase: Appropriations	
Overtime	\$3,340.00

Increase: Estimated Revenue	\$3,340.00
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Dated this 16th day of August, 2000.

 /s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

 /s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 4 The Committee reviewed a request from the Police Chief to transfer \$27,000 from the Police Department personnel services category to the Data Processing Budget to cover the costs of new computer equipment at the new law enforcement offices. The Committee was recommending that the Council pass a resolution amending the Police Department and Data Processing budgets as proposed.

Resolution No. 4 was introduced by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Houlahan, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar to authorize the Finance Director to make the following changes within the Police Department Fund:

Increase: Data Processing
Equipment \$27,000.00

Decrease: Police Department
Personnel Services \$27,000.00

Dated this 16th day of August, 2000.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 5 The Committee reviewed a request from the Vision 2020 Steering Committee for an additional \$1,000 to cover final Project costs. The additional funds will cover final costs of the program facilitator as well as the printing and distribution of the final report. The Committee was recommending to the Council approval of an additional \$1,000 to finish the project. Council Member Kelly moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee with Council Member Houlahan seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 6 The Committee reviewed the following reports: June Rice Financial and the First Half Utilities Financial Reports. This matter was for information only.

The Finance Committee Report of August 8, 2000, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Anderson, and carried.

The Labor Relations Committee Report of August 8, 2000, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Christianson. There were two items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 The Committee meeting was closed to discuss contract strategies and tentative proposals. Upon reopening the meeting, the Committee was recommending to the Council approval of a three-year contract proposal with LELS. Generally speaking, the contract provides for 3 percent wage adjustments for Patrol Officers in each of the three years and 3 percent, 4 percent and 5 percent increases for the Sergeants. July 4th is added to the contract provisions for additional holiday pay. The only other language changes involve clarifications in the grievance procedure and language detailing the manner in which employees may use accumulated sick leave earnings to pay health insurance premiums following retirement (this language conforms to that of all other bargaining groups). Council Member Christianson moved to approve the recommendation of the Labor Relations Committee with Council Member Reese seconding the motion, which carried.

The Committee was further recommending to the Council approval of the proposed AFSCME General Unit contract. The three-year contract proposal involves 3 percent wage adjustments in the second and third years with employees being placed on a step and grade schedule in the first year of the contract. The contract includes language changes in the grievance procedure, the use of vacation leave in not-less-than thirty minute increments, the addition of grandchildren to the definition of immediate family for the purpose of funeral leave, small increases to the differential pay of Civic Center employees working a night shift in years two and three of the contract, and an increase of one hour pay per day for standby at the Waste Treatment Plant in the third year of the contract. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the recommendation of the Labor Relations Committee with Council Member Reese seconding the motion, which carried.

The Labor Relations Committee Report of August 9, 2000, 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 Reese, and carried.

The Mayor and Council considered resolutions appointing judges and designating polling locations for the 2000 Primary Election. Resolution No. 5 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Anderson, read by Mayor Heitke, and carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the individuals listed below be appointed as Judges to work at the Primary Election in the City of Willmar on September 12, 2000:

WARD ONE	Precinct One:	Dorothy Fransen Pat Morse Carol Baker Gerry Nyberg Stanza Haagenson Cheryl Retrum
	Precinct Two:	Pat Hadder Dona Wieking Evelyn Fullerton Rosemary Habicht Alice VanOrt Don Bergman

	Precinct Three:	JoAnn Jagt Sally McAdams Owen Heuring Bill Schultz Lee Durst Francis Rahn
	Precinct Four:	Dan Pederson Ardell Engwall Lorraine Hoogeveen Lucille Lysne Marlys Boeder Joan Schultz
WARD TWO	Precinct One:	Daisy Score Beverly Chambers Leonette Sadler Myron Schroeder Doris Helsper Dan Reigstad
	Precinct Two:	Arlene Rice Eilene Magnuson Lea Braun Lenora Neuman Marlene Backer Marie Carlson
	Precinct Three:	Doris Doerhofer Mary Lorentzen Marilyn Hanson Margett Negen Betty Schow Donna Hillenbrand
WARD THREE	Precinct One:	Vernon Raske Mavis Hagert Iona Andreen Rosemary Peters Ruby Bernhagen Harriet Levy
	Precinct Two:	Ann Pederson Marcella Erickson Elaine Pearson Floyd Boeder Melvin Poppen Esther Floren

	Precinct Three:	Millie Holverson Blanche Berger Florence Pendergrast Juna Halstrom Verle Watson C. Leonard Pearson
WARD FOUR	Precinct One:	Joyce Hanson Margie Carlson Evangelin Bass Neil Cofer Ed Hadder Joey Werder
	Precinct Two:	Marsha Butterfield Ruby Freeberg Penny Selseth LeCharl Lessman Arlene Syverson Stanley Marcus
	Precinct Three:	Bob Jones Francis Yule Sharon Baker Howard Freeberg Connie Heath Gary Paulson
Absentee Judges:		Gladys Zuidema Rhoda Lang
Reserve Judges:		Jon Winge Duane Bock

Dated this 16th day of August, 2000.

 /s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

 /s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Resolution No. 6 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Christianson, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the following buildings be designated as the official voting locations for the 2000 Primary and General Elections:

FIRST WARD:	1 st Precinct	Senior Citizens Center 624 North Highway 71
	2 nd Precinct	Lakeview Apartment Building 300 North 7th Street
	3 rd Precinct	Ridgewater College 15th Avenue Northwest
	4 th Precinct	Senior Citizens Center 624 North Highway 71

SECOND WARD:	1 st Precinct	St. Mary's Catholic Church 713 Southwest 12th Street
	2 nd Precinct	Vinje Lutheran Church 1101 Willmar Avenue Southwest
	3 rd Precinct	Christian Reform Church 1708 Southwest 8th Street
THIRD WARD:	1 st Precinct	Cardinal Apartments 407 Southeast Lakeland Drive
	2 nd Precinct	Highland Apartments 115 East Becker Avenue
	3 rd Precinct	Municipal Auditorium 311 West 6th Street
FOURTH WARD:	1 st Precinct	First Baptist Church 1000 6 th Street Southeast
	2 nd Precinct	Calvary Lutheran Church 301 Olena Avenue
	3 rd Precinct	Redeemer Lutheran Church 1401 Southwest 6th Street

Dated this 16th day of August, 2000.

 /s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

 /s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Mayor Heitke recognized Kandiyohi County Economic Development Director Wilt Croonquist and Ray Peterson, who requested Council support in trying to attract Fibrominn/Fibrowatt to locate its \$60 million plant east of Willmar. Fibrowatt plans to build a power plant fueled by turkey manure in Minnesota that would produce 50 megawatts of electricity. Mr. Croonquist requested the City commit to offering its wastewater for the proposed plant's cooling system which would mean greater efficiency and more power for Fibrowatt. City Administrator Schmit stated the City does discharge sufficient wastewater quantities to meet the plant's cooling requirement, however City staff have no information on the means and cost of pumping wastewater to the proposed site east of Willmar. Council Member Kelly moved to refer the matter to the Public Works/Safety Committee for consideration. Council Member Reese seconded the motion, which carried.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance, August 21; Public Works/Safety, August 22; Labor, August 23; and Community Development, August 24, 2000.

Council Member Kelly requested to be excused from the September 6, 2000, Council meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Christianson, and carried.

Attest:

MAYOR

SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL