

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

January 5, 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, Denis Anderson, Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlicek, Douglas Reese, Nancy Houlahan, Jim Dokken, and Rick Fagerlie; Present 9, Absent 0.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Finance Director Steven Okins, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, Police Chief Jim Kulset, Fire Chief Marvin Calvin, and Administrative Assistant Audrey Peterson.

Additions to the Agenda included Committee/Board appointments/reappoint, announcements regarding a visit to Willmar from Governor Ventura and the Human Rights Breakfast.

Council Member Reese offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda, which included the following: City Council Minutes of December 15, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of December 13, and Planning Commission Minutes of December 22, 1999. Council Member Kelly seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:03 p.m. Mayor Heitke opened a hearing for consideration of a Currency Exchange License Application from Bennett Ventures Inc. Russ Bennett presented details of his proposed business ACE Cash Express, which would be located in the Kandi Mall Strip Center at 1605 South First Street. ACE Cash Express, Inc. is headquartered in Texas and is the largest franchiser of check-cashing stores in the United States. ACE offers check cashing services, bill paying, money transfers, and money orders. Upon hearing all those who wished to be heard, Mayor Heitke closed the hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Following discussion, Council Member Kelly moved to approve the Currency Exchange License Application, with Council Member Christianson seconding the motion, which carried.

Mayor Heitke welcomed Marvin Calvin, the City's newly hired Fire Chief.

Mayor Heitke presented to the City Council, staff and citizens of Willmar his message of the State of Affairs of the City of Willmar in which he highlighted events of 1999 and priorities of the new Millennium.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of December 28, 1999, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Reese. There were five items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Keith Voss of the Minnesota Department of Transportation was present to address questions the Committee may have in relation to the Willmar Bypass. The Committee reviewed a letter from MnDOT assuring their intent to complete the Bypass in the next few years and the process of finalizing funding scenarios of both Federal and State monies. MnDOT is recommending the City drop its exit ramp-paving project proposed for 2000, which will allow them to complete the ramps in conjunction with the entire bypass programmed for 2001 and 2002.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to leave the exit ramp construction in the 2000 Improvement Report. If at a future date MnDOT commits the funding of the project, the ramps can be deleted at the improvement hearing. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 2 The Committee reviewed a list of projects compiled by staff to be included in the improvement report for the year 2000. The reconstruction list

consists of various residential streets; overlay projects, which includes the Central Business District and Old Town funded by tax increment financing; new construction by developers; and miscellaneous items. A possible inclusion under the new construction would be the extension of Richland Avenue from 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street SW, which is pending developer commitment.

Concerned residents that live in the area of 8<sup>th</sup> Street SW between 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue were present at the Committee meeting to express the need for the completion of 9<sup>th</sup> Street SW from 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Richland Avenue. Area residents expressed safety concerns due to the increase in traffic on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff presented traffic counts taken before and after the completion of Richland Avenue, which showed significant increases. Also mentioned was the fact that of the 43 units proposed in the area, 17 remain to be developed.

The Committee was recommending to the Council to order preparation of the improvement report as presented with the inclusion of the extension of Richland Avenue. Resolution No. 1 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. 1

ORDER IMPROVEMENT REPORT

WHEREAS, it is proposed to construct the following improvements under Project No. 2000:

grading, gravel base, curb and gutter, tiling, bituminous pavement, sidewalk, service lines, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main, and street lighting

and to assess the benefited property for all or a portion of the cost of the improvement, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 429.011 to 429.111 (Laws 1953, Chapter 398, as amended).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Willmar, Minnesota:

That the proposed improvement be referred to the City Engineer for study, and that he is instructed to report to the Council advising the Council in a preliminary way as to whether the proposed improvement is feasible, and as to whether it should be best made as proposed or in connection with some other improvement, and the estimated cost of the improvement as recommended.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2000.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Michael Schmit  
Attest: CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Item No. 3 Staff presented to the Committee a proposed right-of-way Ordinance for the City of Willmar. The intent of this ordinance is to allow municipalities to better protect and manage their right-of-way, and establishes a fee schedule to recover street degradation and management costs. The Committee received the ordinance for review and will discuss it further at a future meeting. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 4 Council Member DeBlicek received a request to monitor parking on the street in the area of the new Valleyside Town Homes. This matter was referred to staff and was for information only.

Item No. 5 Staff informed the Committee that Kandiyohi County may require the City to hold a hearing on the 15<sup>th</sup> Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southwest signal project as part of their agreement to participate in the cost.

City Administrator Schmit informed the Mayor and Council the City has received notice from Kandiyohi County that a hearing was necessary. Following discussion, Council Member Reese moved to schedule a hearing on Project No. 9905 for January 19, 2000, with Council Member Kelly seconding the motion, which carried.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of December 28, 1999, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Kelly, and carried.

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented to the Mayor and Council details of a proposed Ordinance to Rezone Certain Lands. Dan Tollefson proposes rezoning lots in the LEE-DON Addition from Agriculture to General Business to accommodate a proposed commercial laundry facility. It was noted the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and recommends the property be rezoned as requested. Council Member Reese offered a motion to introduce the Ordinance to Rezone Certain Lands and to schedule a hearing for January 19, 2000. Council Member Kelly seconded the motion, which carried.

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented to the Mayor and Council details of a proposed Ordinance to Rezone Certain Lands. John TerWisscha proposed rezoning a tract of land off Willmar Avenue Southeast from Agricultural to R-4 to accommodate a proposed senior citizen housing development. It was noted the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and recommends the property be rezoned as requested. Council Member Reese offered a motion to introduce the Ordinance to Rezone Certain Lands and to schedule a hearing for January 19, 2000. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

City Administrator Schmit presented to the Mayor and Council for consideration an application from Luther Septon to keep fowl at his residence. It was noted a permit was authorized in 1999 and no complaints were received from the public. Council Member Christianson moved to approve of the Livestock, Swine or Fowl Permit with Council Member Kelly seconding the motion, which carried.

Mayor Heitke announced that Governor Jesse Ventura is scheduled to be in Willmar on Tuesday, January 11, 2000, as part of his Blue Highway Bus Trip. The Governor will be at the Kandi Mall for two hours to meet with the public.

Mayor Heitke announced that there would be a Human Rights Breakfast on January 17, 2000, at the Iron Horse Restaurant.

Mayor Heitke presented to the Council for consideration committee appointments/reappointment as follows: appointment of Dean Boute and Brian Jensen to the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Glynda DeLeon to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority; and the reappointment of Richard Heusing to the Planning Commission. Council Member Kelly moved to approve the appointments/reappointment as presented with Council Member Reese seconding the motion, which carried.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Community Development, January 12, and Labor Relations, January 13, 2000. Planning and Development Services Director Peterson informed the Mayor and Council that a representative from the Minnesota Historical Society would be at the January 12, 2000, Planning Commission meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Reese, and carried.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

---

ACTING SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL