

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

January 24, 2001
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 Doug Reese, Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Denis Anderson, Nancy Houlahan, Rick Fagerlie, Jim Dokken, and David Chapin; Present 9, Absent 0.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Police Chief Jim Kulset, Fire Chief Marv Calvin, Finance Director Steven Okins, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Council Member Reese offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of January 8, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of January 8, Rice Hospital Board Minutes of January 10, Airport Commission Minutes of January 9, 2001, Building Inspection Report for December, and Housing Redevelopment Authority Minutes of December 12, 2000; and Mayoral appointment of Mark Malam to the Housing Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried.

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

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of January 16, 2001, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Reese. There were two items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Staff presented to the Committee an Improvement Report for the 2001 Projects, which includes reconstruction, mill and overlay, new construction, and miscellaneous projects. Areas discussed in the reconstruction portion was 15th Avenue Northwest (College Road) from 1st Street to 30th Street and 4th Street Southeast from Minnesota Avenue to 11th Avenue. It was noted that most of the streets proposed for reconstruction this year are over 50 years old.

The Committee discussed the mill and overlay project proposed for the southbound lanes of Business 71-23 from Ella Avenue to Civic Center Drive. Staff explained the problem of the failure of the joints and the proposed solution. As a result of the joint failure this project is 50 percent eligible for State Turnback Funds.

Staff then briefed the Committee on new construction proposed, which includes the extension of Olena Avenue for the development of the YMCA site, 23rd Avenue Southwest from 21st Street east, and the request to extend 9th Street Southwest from Casey's to Richland Avenue.

The Committee was recommending to the Council approval of the Preliminary Report for 2001 Improvements and order an Improvement Hearing for 7:02 p.m. February 21, 2001. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Anderson, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

RECEIVING PRELIMINARY REPORT AND
CALLING PUBLIC HEARING ON YEAR 2001 IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

WHEREAS:

1. The City Council deems it necessary and expedient that the City of Willmar, Minnesota, construct certain improvements to-wit: grading, gravel base, bituminous paving, curb and gutter, sidewalk, street lighting, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main, sump pump drain tile, and service lines in the City as described in and in accordance with the preliminary plans and report prepared by the City Engineer.

2. The Council has been advised by the City Engineer that said Year 2001 Improvement Projects contained in the Preliminary Report are feasible and should best be made as proposed, and the City Engineer's report to this effect has heretofore been received by the Council, and filed with the Clerk-Treasurer; and

3. The statute provides that no such improvements shall be made until the Council shall have held a public hearing on such improvements following mailed notice and two publications thereof in the official newspaper stating time and place of the hearing, the general nature of the improvement, the estimated costs thereof and the area proposed to be assessed, in accordance with the law;

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

1. A public hearing will be held at the time and place set forth in the Notice of Hearing hereto attached to consider said proposed improvements (on file in the City Clerk's Office).

2. The nature of the improvements, the estimated cost of each major portion thereof, and the areas proposed to be assessed therefore are described in the form of Notice of Hearing hereto attached.

3. The notice of said public hearing shall be in substantially the form contained in the notice hereto attached.

4. The Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said hearing to be given two publications in the official newspaper. Said publications shall be one week apart, and at least three days shall elapse between the last publication and the hearing. Not less than ten days before the hearing the Clerk-Treasurer shall mail notice of the hearing to the owner of each parcel of land within the area proposed to be assessed as described in the notice. For the purpose of giving such mailed notice, owners shall be those shown to be such on the records of the County Auditor or, if the tax statements in the County are mailed by the County Treasurer, on the records of the County Treasurer. As to properties not listed on the records of the County Auditor or the County Treasurer, the Clerk-Treasurer shall ascertain such ownership by any practicable means and give mailed notice to such owners.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2001.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 2 The Committee discussed safety concerns at the intersection of Business 71-23 and T.H. 294 in relation to the increase of traffic expected after the opening of the Law Enforcement Center. It was the consensus of the Committee to direct staff to research the traffic and any changes/increases after the Law Enforcement Center is operational, and to work with the County and MnDOT to establish warrants at the intersection. This matter was for information only.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of January 16, 2001, 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 DeBlieck, and carried.

The Finance Committee Report of January 17, 2001, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Anderson. There were four items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Rice Trustees Janet Vandendriessche and Carol Hruby were present to discuss the Cushman A. Rice Trust annual report with the Committee. Items highlighted in the report were the level of increases in annual revenue and the year-end market value of the trust.

The Committee also discussed the decline in the number of applicants and need to review the application process and income limits, so the annual revenues may be used as the trust was intended. Three contributing factors were mentioned as possible reasons for the decline: less seasonal field workers in the area, Minnesota's revised welfare laws and new insurance plans available. It was the consensus of the Committee that staff work with the Trustees to review income limits and possible asset allocation and provide a recommendation at a later date. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 2 Staff presented the City's Investment Policy to the Committee for its annual review. There were no recommended changes to the policy for the year 2001. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 The Committee reviewed a list of organizations that the City is associated with and how they relate to the City. This was for information only.

Item No. 4 The Committee reviewed the following reports: November Willmar Library, Rice Hospital and Rice Trust. This matter was for information only.

The Finance Committee Report of January 17, 2001, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, and carried.

City Administrator Schmit informed the Mayor and Council that staff has received correspondence from MnDOT regarding the mill and overlay project scheduled for 28th Street Southwest. The proposed street width is not adequate for parallel parking and in order to meet State Aid requirements, parking needs to be removed from one side of the street following completion of the improvements. Following discussion, Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS the City of Willmar is improving 28th Street Southwest (S.A.P. No. 175-135-03) from T.H. 12 to 450 feet south; and

WHEREAS the Minnesota Municipal State Aid Rules require that parking be removed from one side.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a no parking zone be established on the east side of said 28th Street Southwest from T.H. 12 to 450 feet south upon completion of the improvement.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2001.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

City Administrator Schmit informed the Mayor and Council that the Minnesota Community Education Association is proposing a funding bill for statewide community education programs. This per capita funding with State equalization would mean new revenues to the Willmar Community Education Program. Following discussion, Resolution No. 3 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

FAVORING AUTHORIZATION OF REVENUE FOR
YOUTH PROGRAMS IN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

WHEREAS, school-age youth can greatly benefit by participation in structured activities that challenge and develop their social, mental, physical and creative abilities in a safe environment during non-school hours;

WHEREAS, polling research demonstrates overwhelming public support across all demographic groups for offering such programs in their communities;

WHEREAS, because of their experience, personnel and facilities, school districts are able to take a leadership role in providing these opportunities to youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Willmar City Council supports the introduction and passage of state legislation that would authorize, but not mandate, school districts to raise funds from the State for youth programs in community education.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2001.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance, January 29; Public Works/Safety, January 31; and Community Development, February 1, 2001.

Council Member Anderson requested to be excused from the February 7, 2001, Council meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, and carried.

Attest:

MAYOR

SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL