

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

January 4, 2010
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Pro Tempore Doug Reese. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Pro Tempore Reese, Council Members Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Denis Anderson, Steve Ahmann, Rick Fagerlie, Jim Dokken, and Tim Johnson; Present 8, Absent 1 – Mayor Lester Heitke.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Police Chief Jim Kulset, Fire Chief Marv Calvin, Public Works Director Mel Odens, Finance Director Steve Okins, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, and Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson.

Council Member Christianson offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of December 21, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of December 28, Charter Commission Minutes of December 2, 2009; Mayoral Appointment – Community Education and Recreation Advisory Board, Jill Gould; and Out-of-State Travel, Council Member DeBlieck. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:02 p.m. Mayor Pro Tempore Reese opened a hearing on an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1060 Known as the Willmar Zoning Ordinance by Adding Section 11 Relating to Wind Energy Conversion Systems. Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented details of the Ordinance establishing standards and procedures for installing and operating small wind turbines and revisions proposed by the Planning Commission concerning height, size and noise. Mayor Heitke arrived at 7:04 p.m. and presided over the balance of the meeting. There being no one present to speak for or against the Ordinance, Mayor Heitke closed the hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Council Member Anderson expressed concerns with turbines in residential areas. Following discussion, Council Member DeBlieck offered a motion to adopt, assign a number, and order final publication of the Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1060 Known as the Willmar Zoning Ordinance by Adding Section 11 Relating to Wind Energy Conversion Systems. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 1 – Council Member Anderson voted “No.”

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

The Finance Committee Report for December 28, 2009, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Anderson. There were five items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Beverly Dougherty and John Christianson, representing Willmar Design Center, were present to discuss their 2010 budget and work program. Mr. Christianson detailed specific expenditures from the City’s proposed \$48,000 contribution including costs for advertising, insurance, rent, the project coordinator, and design consultant contracts. In response to questions, Ms. Dougherty will provide a summary of tasks to be completed in 2010 by the design consultant. Representatives also talked about the process and responsibility for garbage removal in the Downtown area, snow removal from sidewalks, and the primary goal of opening the Downtown bypass. It was noted the openings are scheduled for construction in 2012 and City administration will continue discussions with the group regarding snow removal. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 2 West Central Industries Director Charlie Oakes was present to discuss with the Committee the local Meals on Wheels Program. Mr. Oakes introduced new Program Director Warren Sundstrom and Chief Finance Officer Bev Kingman who were present to answer questions specific to the Meals on Wheels Program. This matter was referred to Committee during the development of the 2010 budget when concerns were raised about the level of funding and impact to recipients in the event funding was cut or significantly reduced. The City's 2010 budget includes \$15,000 for the Meals on Wheels program, down from \$18,000 in 2009.

Staff is awaiting clarification from the Area Agency on Aging regarding alternative funding sources and although it appears Title III may be an option, it was the consensus of Committee Members and others present to make every effort to maintain the local program at current levels which now serves some 30,000 meals annually.

Additional discussion of this matter will take place at a future date when funding information is received from the Area Agency on Aging and after Mr. Oakes has had an opportunity to present detailed budget information. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 Steve Brisendine, Director of Community Education and Recreation, presented to the Committee proposed revisions to the Community Education and Recreation Joint Powers Agreement between the School District and City of Willmar. Essentially, the revisions which have been approved by the Joint Powers and School Boards calls for more involvement in the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities and minor revisions to the composition of the Joint Powers Board.

The Committee was recommending the Council adopt a resolution revising the Joint Powers Agreement for Community Education and Recreation as proposed subject to review of the City Attorney. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, reviewed by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, a municipal corporation of the State of Minnesota, that the Mayor and City Administrator be authorized to enter into revised Joint Powers Agreement for Community Education and Recreation between Independent School District No. 347 and the City of Willmar.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2010.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Michael Schmit
Attest: CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Item No. 4 The Committee reviewed reports from the Rice Trust and Willmar Area Community Foundation. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 5 The Committee considered a request that all City Council and Committee meeting agendas and material be posted on the City's website prior to scheduled meetings. Committee Members requested that Staff evaluate the request in terms of demand and resources and report any findings at a future date.

The Finance Committee Report for December 28, 2009, 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.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance, January 11, Public Works/Safety, January 12; Labor Relations, January 13, and Community Development, January 14, 2010.

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

Attest:

MAYOR

ACTING SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL