

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

January 24, 2011
7:00 p.m.

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

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Police Chief David Wyffels, Fire Chief Marv Calvin, Finance Director Steve Okins, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Additions to the Agenda included discussion of a work session with Springsted Incorporated.

Council Member Anderson offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of January 10, Council Work Session Minutes of January 5, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of January 10, Rice Hospital Board Minutes of January 12, Planning Commission Minutes of January 12, Community Center Council Minutes of January 5, Willmar Design Center Minutes of January 12, 2011; Charter Commission Minutes of December 7, Housing and Redevelopment Authority Minutes of December 14, Convention and Visitors Bureau Minutes of December 21, 2010; Applications for Exempt Permits – Willmar Sertoma Club and Firefighters Association; and Mayoral Appointments – Willmar Lakes Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dave Pederson and Denny Baker. Council Member Reese seconded the motion, which carried.

The Mayor and Council considered a Resolution calling for a public hearing on an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of Hospital Revenue Notes. Mayor Yanish called on Bill Fenske, Rice Memorial Hospital CFO, who presented details on the proposed 16,000-square foot, 23 room addition to the existing Rice Care Center. Following discussion, Resolution No. 1, calling for a public hearing on an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of Hospital Revenue Notes in an approximate principal amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 and setting a public hearing on February 7, 2011, was introduced by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Dokken, reviewed by Mayor Yanish, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE
AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF HOSPITAL REVENUE NOTES**

(For Resolution in its Entirety, see City Council file dated
January 24, 2011, located in the City Clerk's Office)

The Mayor and Council considered a Resolution calling for a public hearing on an Ordinance authorizing issuance of Municipal Utility Revenue Bonds. Mayor Yanish called on Bruce Gomm, Willmar Municipal Utilities General Manager, who presented details on the proposed acquisition, construction and equipping of Wind Turbines and WWTF Power Substation. Following discussion, Resolution No. 2, calling

for a public hearing on an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of Municipal Utility Revenue Notes in an approximate principal amount not to exceed \$1,750,000 and setting a public hearing on February 7, 2011, was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, reviewed by Mayor Yanish, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF MUNICIPAL UTILITY REVENUE BONDS

(For Resolution in its Entirety, see City Council file dated
January 24, 2011, located in the City Clerk's Office)

Mayor Yanish acknowledged John Sullivan who had signed up to address the City Council during its scheduled Open Forum. Mr. Sullivan spoke of the 2004 Local Option Sales Tax, requesting the Council to sunset the sales tax.

The Community Development Committee Report for January 20, 2011, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Dokken. There were five items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 David Herzer appeared before the Committee to request transparency in wind turbine performance reporting. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 2 Wes Hompe of WMU presented a status report to the Committee on the performance of the wind turbines. The report was presented at the request of the Council, who wished to monitor the on-going performance of the turbines and make the information available to the public. Mr. Hompe stated that they were working to update the WMU website to include turbine operation information. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 Steve Renquist of the EDC presented information regarding the anticipated acquisition of a portion of Willmar Fabrication by a Canadian equipment manufacturer. Willmar Fabrication currently has JOBZ status relative to tax breaks and the acquiring company expects that to continue. Staff had anticipated bringing a formal request to the Committee for the transfer of the business subsidies, but the timing of the acquisition process did not allow for that at this meeting. As the sale process unfolds, it will be necessary to address a formal request to assign the JOBZ agreement/benefits.

Mr. Renquist stated that Willmar Fabrications currently employees 70 individuals. The acquiring company expects to bring that number to 200 over 2 years. A portion of the current company (approximately 20 jobs) will stay with that company as it spins off to a new Willmar location. There may be an expectation for JOBZ benefits at the new location, as well. Staff noted that JOBZ benefits come at a cost to the taxing jurisdictions, but the bst tax revenues are off-set, in theory, by the financial impacts of increased employment. It was noted that the JOBZ program sunsets at the end of 2015. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 4 Staff presented updates on a number of development activities including the sale of the Mills block, medical clinic development on 19th Avenue SW, and church demolition. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 5 Chair Dokken requested that Staff compile a list of vacant residences so the Committee has an idea of the scope of the problem and can address issues relative to those residences. This matter was for information only.

The Community Development Committee Report for January 20, 2011, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Dokken, seconded by Council Member Ahmann, and carried.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Public Works/Safety, January 25; Labor Relations, January 26; Finance, January 31; Community Development, February 3; and Council Work Session, February 10, 2011.

City Clerk Halliday offered dates to hold a work session with Springsted Consultant Sharon Klumpp to work on the City Administrator position analysis, recruitment brochure, job advertisement and recruitment strategy. February 10, 2011, was selected as an acceptable date to meet. This matter was for information only.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Johnson, and carried.

Attest:

MAYOR

SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL