

WILLMAR CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BOARD ROOM
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

March 6, 2023
6:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by Mayor Douglas Reese. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Douglas Reese, Council Members Justin Ask, Audrey Nelsen, Vicki Davis, Carl Shuldes, Michael O'Brien, Thomas Butterfield, Julie Asmus, and Rick Fagerlie. Present 9, Absent 0.

Also present were City Administrator Leslie Valiant, City Operations Director Kyle Box, Police Chief Jim Felt, Fire Chief Frank Hanson, Finance Director Steve Okins, Public Works Director Gary Manzer, City Clerk Judy Thompson, and City Attorney Robert Scott.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Council Member Ask moved to approve the agenda. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

City Clerk Thompson reviewed the consent agenda.

- A. City Council Minutes of February 21, 2023
- B. Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of February 24, 2023
- C. Planning Commission Minutes of February 1, 2023
- D. Accounts Payable Report, 02-14-23 Thru 02-28-23
- E. State Temporary Liquor Permit—Foxhole Brewhouse, Inc.
- F. Planning Commission Applicant -John Christianson

Information:

- G. Council Work Session - City Hall Community Center

Council Member Ask offered a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

There was no one present to speak during the Open Forum.

At 6:33 p.m., Mayor Reese reconvened the public hearing to consider objections to the proposed determination for the declared potentially dangerous dog. Police Chief Felt provided pertinent information to the Mayor and Council.

Susan Berge, 605 2nd Street SW, owner of dog, addressed the Mayor and Council to speak against the potential dangerous dog designation.

Steve Stewart, 605 2nd Street SW, addressed the Mayor and Council to speak against the potential dangerous dog designation.

John Landin, 605 2nd Street SW, addressed the Mayor and Council to speak against the potential dangerous dog designation.

There being no others to speak for or against the proposed designation, Mayor Reese closed the public hearing at 6:53 p.m. and opened it up for discussion by the Council.

Following discussion, Council Member Shuldes offered a motion to uphold the designation of declaring the dog as a potentially dangerous dog, and direct staff to prepare the necessary document to be brought back to Council on March 20, 2023 for formal approval. Council Member Asmus seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 1. Council Member O'Brien voted "no".

At 6:56 p.m. Mayor Reese opened the public hearing for an ordinance amending the City Charter. Charter Commission Vice Chair Richard Engan presented the pertinent information to the Mayor and Council.

There being no one present to speak for or against said ordinance, Mayor Reese closed the public hearing at 6:59 p.m. and opened it up for discussion by the Council.

Following discussion, Council Member Davis offered a motion to adopt, assign a number, and publish an **Ordinance Amending the City Charter**. Council Member O'Brien seconded the motion, which failed on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 1. Council Member Butterfield voted "no". (Note: Charter amendments require Mayor to vote.)

Fire Chief Hanson presented a request to approve the updated City of Willmar Safety Policy. It was noted there were a few minor changes that occurred.

Following discussion, Council Member Fagerlie offered a motion to approve staff's request. Council Member Shuldes seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Fire Chief Hanson presented a request to approve the increase in firefighter wages and fire officer stipends retroactive to January 1, 2023.

Following discussion, **Resolution No. 2023-042 Authorization to Increase Firefighter and Fire Officer Wages for 2023 and 2024** was introduced by Council Member Fagerlie. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Fire Chief Hanson presented a request to re-appropriate \$75,000 from the Wastewater Enterprise Fund to the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget for the purchase of two vehicles.

Following discussion, **Resolution No. 2023-043 Reappropriating Funds from the Wastewater Enterprise Fund to the 2023 Capital Improvement Project Budget** was introduced by Council Member Nelsen. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Public Works Director Manzer presented a request to amend final plans and specifications of the 2023 Street and Other Improvement Projects and authorize advertisement for bids.

Following discussion, **Resolution No. 2023-044 A Resolution Amending Approval of Final Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Publication of the Advertisement for Bids for a Portion of the 2023 Improvement Projects** was introduced by Council Member Fagerlie. Council Member O'Brien seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Contracted City Engineer Jared Voge presented a request to receive and accept the Lakeland Drive traffic study. It was noted there were no changes recommended or needed along Lakeland Drive for the construction of the Unique Opportunities Project.

Following discussion, Council Member Ask offered a motion to approve staff's request. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Council Member Fagerlie offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Council Member Nelsen seconding the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

/s/ Douglas Reese
MAYOR

Attest:

/s/ Judy Thompson
SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-042

AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE OFFICER WAGES FOR 2023 AND 2024

Motion By: Fagerlie Second By: Nelsen

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE City Council of the City of Willmar, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Minnesota, to approve a 20% wage increase for firefighters and a 50% stipend increase for Fire Officers in 2023.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2023.

/s/ Douglas Reese
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Judy Thompson
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-043

**REAPPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND
TO THE 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BUDGET**

Motion By: Nelsen Second By: Fagerlie

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Willmar, a municipal corporation of the State of Minnesota, to re-appropriate \$75,000.00 from the Wastewater Enterprise Fund to the 2023 Capital Improvement Project Budget for the purchase of two vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Willmar, a municipal corporation of the State of Minnesota, to authorize the Finance Director to amend the 2023 Capital Improvement Fund Budget as follows:

- Decrease: Wastewater Enterprise Fund, \$75,000.00
- Increase: 2023 Capital Improvement Project Budget (Vehicle Replacement),
\$75,000.00

Dated this 6th day of March, 2023.

/s/ Douglas Reese
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Judy Thompson
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-044

A RESOLUTION AMENDING APPROVAL OF FINAL PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR A PORTION OF THE 2023 IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

Motion By: Fagerlie Second By: O'Brien

WHEREAS the City Council approved final plans and specifications and authorized advertising for bids for Project Nos. 2301-A, 2301-B, 2301-C, 2303, 2304, and 2308 for the City of Willmar, February 20, 2023;

WHEREAS Staff and the City Engineer of the City of Willmar recommended to the City Council to advertise for plans and specifications for Project Nos. 2301-A, 2301-B, 2301-C, 2303, 2304, and 2308 for the City of Willmar;

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

Final plans and specifications are hereby approved, and publication of the advertisement for bids is herewith authorized. Multiple bid packages will be publicly opened and read with the first opening scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on the 29th day of March, 2023 for Project Nos. 2303-A, 2303-B, 2303-C, 2303, 2304, and 2308 at the City Office Building, 333 Southwest Sixth Street, Willmar, Minnesota.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2023

/s/ Douglas Reese
Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Judy Thompson
City Clerk