

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

January 16, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Marv Calvin. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Marv Calvin, Council Members Audrey Nelsen, Ron Christianson, Kathy Schwantes, Fernando Alvarado, Julie Asmus, Andrew Plowman, and Rick Fagerlie. Council Member Shawn Mueske was excused from the meeting. Present 8, Absent 1.

Also present were City Administrator Ike Holland, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, Police Chief Jim Felt, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, Fire Chief Frank Hanson, City Clerk Judy Thompson and City Attorney Robert Scott.

There were no proposed additions or deletions to the agenda.

Council Member Christianson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion which carried.

City Clerk Judy Thompson reviewed the consent agenda.

- A. City Council Minutes of January 8, 2018
- B. City Council Amended Minutes of January 3, 2018
- C. Willmar Municipal Utilities Minutes of January 8, 2018
- D. Authorization to Purchase of Patrol Vehicle
- E. Police Department Statistics for December, 2017
- F. Fire Department Statistics for December, 2017

Council Member Christianson offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Willmar Lakes Area Chamber President Ken Warner introduced Chamber Board Leadership members Patricia Solheid and Ross Magnuson to the Council. Mr. Warner stated there are 13 people on the Board and the Chamber represents over 600 businesses and organizations throughout the community. Mr. Warner also gave an update on Vision 2040 and a progress report. He stated there is a community meeting scheduled for January 30th at the Willmar Conference Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The topic of discussion will be "Where does the community want to go?" and urged everyone to attend.

Earl Bluhm, rural Willmar, addressed the Council during the Open Forum with comments related to recent Facebook activity by Council Member Christianson and his support of free speech. As the three minute time limit expired, Mr. Bluhm continued to speak.

Mayor Calvin gavelled in an effort to stop Mr. Bluhm from speaking. Following this, Mayor Calvin stated there will be no others allowed to speak as the Mayor was exercising his right to maintain respect of the Council Chambers.

Mayor Calvin presented to the Council, staff, and public the Mayor's 2018 State of the City Address (a copy of which is contained in the Council proceedings file).

Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson presented a request to approve establishing a municipal development district for the 15th Street Flats Apartment Project which consists of a 4-story building with 47 apartment units. Mr. Peterson stated the City Council gave preliminary approval to a 15-year tax increment

financing district for this project in June 2017. The preliminary TIF approval was based on an anticipated construction start in 2018. The project did receive approval for the tax credit funding and it is now time to finalize the tax increment financing portion of the project. Following discussion, Council Member Nelsen offered a motion to set a public hearing for 7:01 p.m. on February 20, 2018 for the creation of a municipal development district. Council Member Asmus seconded the motion which carried.

Mr. Peterson was also recommending the Council set a public hearing for February 20, 2018 at 7:02 p.m. to consider approval of a tax increment financing plan for the proposed project. Council Member Fagerlie offered a motion to approve staff's recommendation. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion which carried.

City Administrator Ike Holland requested a Special Work Session for the Council be held on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Utilities Building to hear a proposal from the Curling Club, and also to discuss the Civic Center Ice Replacement.

Mayor Calvin stated the Council Chambers are to be respected by all people of this community and he expects order to be kept in the Chambers.

Council Member Fagerlie stated the open house at the Lakeland Elementary School will be held beginning at 8:00 p.m. this evening.

Council Member Nelsen shared the 2018 Official Guide to Kandiyohi County booklet with the Council. Ms. Nelsen also stated Dad's Belgian Waffle fundraiser for the baseball boosters is Saturday, January 27th, Winterfest activities are being held this weekend in Spicer, and Vision 2040 refresher event is being held January 30th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Willmar Conference Center.

Council Member Christianson gave a "hats off" to the Minnesota Vikings.

Council Member Alvarado stated the Willmar High School girls and boys basketball teams are currently undefeated for the season. Mr. Alvarado also echoed the words of Council Member Plowman from the work session held earlier this evening to "Love thy neighbor."

Council Member Asmus loves hearing all the accomplishments in 2017 as stated by the Mayor and is looking forward to 2018, and she is planning to attend the Vision 2040 event on January 30th.

Council Member Plowman stated he has been asked by several people "Why are you on the City Council?" He stated he loves the political process, seeing things happen, the optimism at the table, this is an election year, and he loves seeing full chairs in the audience at Council meetings.

Council Member Nelsen offered a motion to adjourn the meeting with Council Member Fagerlie seconding the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

MAYOR

Attest:

SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL