

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

March 20, 2002
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 Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Denis Anderson, Rick Fagerlie, Jim Dokken, and David Chapin; Present 7, Absent 2 – Council Member Doug Reese and Nancy Houlahan were excused from the meeting.

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 Steven Okins, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, and Administrative Assistant Audrey Peterson.

Proposed additions to the agenda included consideration of a Kandiyohi Area Transit request to hold a raffle and announcements regarding Elmquist Jewelers and Vision 2020/Blandin.

Council Member Anderson offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of March 6, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of March 11, Rice Hospital Board Minutes of March 13, Building Inspection Report for February, Pioneerland Library Board Minutes of January 17, Kandiyohi Area Transit Board Minutes of February 12, Community Education and Recreation Board Minutes of February 28, Zoning Appeals Board Minutes of March 11, and Planning Commission Minutes of March 13, 2002. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:02 p.m. Mayor Heitke opened a public hearing on an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1060 to Rezone Certain Property. Planning and Development Services Director Peterson informed the Mayor and Council that Perkins Lumber Co. purposes to rezone a tract of land west of the current facilities from R-2 to I-2 to allow the construction of a storage building. It was noted the Planning Commission has conducted a public hearing and approved the rezoning as requested. There being no one present to speak for or against the proposed Ordinance, Mayor Heitke closed the hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Council Member Christianson offered a motion to adopt, assign a number and order final publication of the Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1060 to Rezone Certain Property. Council Member Chapin seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 6, Noes 0.

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 March 12, 2002, were presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Christianson. There were three items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Staff presented to the Committee a proposal for additional consulting work to accommodate the First Street Signal Operations Improvement Project. The additional work is

required in order to modify plans to incorporate emergency vehicle preemption detectors and controller cards. This project is being combined with a previously approved program of signal system loop replacements and controller retrofits.

The Committee was recommending to the Council to approve of the revised Bolton and Menk professional services agreement and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to sign on behalf of the City. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Anderson, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 6, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS, the City of Willmar desires to retain a consultant to provide professional engineering services for design and construction of the First Street Signal Operations Improvements Project – Phase II for the City of Willmar; and

WHEREAS, a proposal has been made by, and an agreement prepared to retain, the firm of Bolton and Men, Inc. of Willmar, Minnesota, in a not-to-exceed amount of \$4,500.00 for said services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that said agreement be approved and that the City Administrator be authorized to execute the same.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2002.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Michael Schmit
Attest: CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Item No. 2 As a follow up to a discussion at the March 6, 2002, City Council meeting, staff reviewed with the Committee a five-point program involving ownership and management issues at the Civic Center and Blue Line Club buildings. The discussion of the five-point plan was a prelude to a presentation regarding additional locker room space at the Civic Center as recommended in the Civic Center/BLC Task Force report. Staff reviewed previous plans for expanding locker rooms to the front of the Civic Center building and a second option of providing locker rooms and other space in a connection between the Civic Center and BLC buildings.

The Committee was recommending to the Council that staff be authorized to prepare Request for Architectural Proposals to develop the building connection concept. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the recommendation of the Public Works/Safety Committee with Council Member Anderson seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 The Committee briefly discussed the timely completion of street and utility projects in platted areas and organizational issues with regard to governance of the Municipal Utilities Commission. This matter was for information only.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of March 12, 2002, were approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Christianson,

seconded by Council Member Anderson, and carried.

The Community Development Committee Report of March 14, 2002, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member DeBlieck. There were four items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 The Committee discussed a proposal to add two dates of motorcycle and ATV racing at the fairgrounds for the upcoming race season. Michelle Schwitters, Willmar CVB Executive Director, addressed the benefits of bringing such activities to the community.

Following discussion of a history of racing and noise problems, the Committee was recommending to the Council that the request for motorcycle and ATV racing at the fairgrounds be denied. Council Member DeBlieck moved to approve the recommendation of the Community Development Committee with Council Member Dokken seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 2 Staff presented to the Committee two redistricting proposals for Council wards and precincts, based on the 2000 Census. It was noted the City could not act on redistricting until the State has adopted its redistricting proposal. Proposal A is an adjustment of current ward boundaries that reflect changes in census numbers. Proposal B is a total overhaul of wards that better defines each ward geographically. Proposal B would require that two Council Members run for election in new wards.

The Committee was recommending to the Council that proposal A be selected as the City's choice for ward redistricting. Council Member DeBlieck moved to follow the intent of Proposal A and that the matter be referred back to Committee for additional discussion. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 Staff presented updates to the Committee on the Airport project and noted research continues on possible air cargo and helicopter base facilities. Staff said they were trying to arrange a meeting between City officials, State elected officials, and representatives of the Air National Guard to discuss the helicopter base concept. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 4 The Committee was informed that the Building Inspection Technician position had been filled by Jim Solheid from Wisconsin. Updates were received on the following projects: Mills, South 1st Street commercial, the YMCA, an east side residential planned unit development, and a redevelopment project at the intersection of Lakeland Drive and Highway 12. This matter was for information only.

The Community Development Committee Report of March 14, 2002, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member DeBlieck, seconded by Council Member Dokken, and carried.

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented to the Mayor and Council for consideration a preliminary plat for Willmar Pet Hospital Addition, a one-lot plat just north of the City impound lot on Highway 40. It is the future site of the proposed Willmar Pet Hospital. It was noted the Planning Commission has approved the plat with conditions. Following discussion, Council Member Fagerlie moved to approve the preliminary plat for Willmar Pet Hospital Addition with Council Member Dokken seconding the motion, which carried.

City Administrator Schmit informed the Mayor and Council that Kandiyohi Area Transit has presented a request to conduct a fundraising raffle. The information presented by KAT did not specifically state what the proceeds from the raffle would be used for. Council Member Chapin

moved to deny the request. The motion died for the lack of a second. It was the consensus of the Council that City Administrator Schmit be directed to look into what the funds from the raffle would be used for and if appropriate, to sign and submit the application to the State of Minnesota.

Mayor Heitke offered congratulations to Elmquist Jewelers on their 100-year anniversary and wished the business continued success. The Mayor also thanked the West Central Tribune for an article regarding Elmquist Jewelers.

Mayor Heitke announced that the Blandin Foundation has approved a \$500,000 grant for the YMCA project. The grant was a result of the Vision 2020 process. It was noted that other Vision 2020 committees continue to work on projects for Blandin funding.

Mayor Heitke distributed to the Council and staff the following handouts from the National League of Cities: Building Quality Communities, Securing America's Future, and Defend America Website.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Labor Relations and Finance, March 25; and Public Works/Safety, March 26, 2002.

Community Education and Recreation Director Brisendine presented to the Mayor and Council the 2001 Community Education and Recreation annual report. Following a question and answer period, the report was ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Council Member Anderson requested to be excused from the April 3, 2002, City Council meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Christian, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, and carried.

Attest:

MAYOR

ACTING SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL