

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

September 20, 2000
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 Verna Kelly, Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Douglas Reese, Denis Anderson, Nancy Houlahan, Jim Dokken, and Rick Fagerlie; Present 9, Absent 0.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, Police Chief Jim Kulset, Fire Chief Marv Calvin, City Engineer Mel Odens, Finance Director Steven Okins, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Proposed additions to the agenda included discussion on the Fixed Base Operator agreement and FAA funding.

The Council requested that the September 7, 2000, Airport Commission Minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Christianson offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of September 6, Board of Canvass Minutes of September 13, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of September 11, Rice Hospital Minutes of September 12, Building Inspection Report for August, Pioneerland Library Board Minutes of June 27 and July 20, Senior Center Minutes of September 6, Airport Commission Minutes of September 5, and Planning Commission Minutes of September 13, 2000; and Mayoral reappointment of Patricia D'Aquilla to the Police Civil Service Commission and Deb Swenson to the Community Education and Recreation Board. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

Mayor Heitke acknowledged that signed people had signed up to address the City Council during its scheduled Open Forum. Noting that most were there to discuss Airport issues, Mayor Heitke indicated that he would afford them an opportunity to speak during the Council's review of the Airport Commission Minutes.

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Airport Commission Minutes of September 7, 2000. City Administrator Schmit presented an update regarding previous discussions on the Fixed Base Operator agreement and the terms and conditions requested by Willmar Air Service. Several citizens and Airport Commission Members spoke before the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed FBO agreement. The Council discussed the proposed 10-year agreement between the City and the current FBO Willmar Air Service. Current owner of Willmar Air Service, Bruce Jaeger, reviewed proposed 10-year business plans and the status of his attempts to involve third-party investors.

Council Member Reese offered a motion to refer the Fixed Base Operator agreement back to staff for continued discussion on identified issues (hangar issue, length of agreement and fuel sales arrangements). Council Member Anderson seconded the motion, which carried. Council Member Reese moved to accept the Airport Commission Minutes of September 7, 2000.

Mayor Heitke called for a recess at 8:05 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

The Finance Committee Report of September 11, 2000, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Kelly. There were four items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Representatives of Rice Trust appeared before the Committee to

present a review of year-to-date activities and the status of the Rice Trust account. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 2 Staff informed the Committee that Truth in Taxation Statutes requires the City to schedule a minimum of three hearings to set the year 2001 Tax Levy and Adopt the Mayor's Proposed Budget. The hearings required are the initial hearing to discuss the Budget and Tax Levy, a continuation hearing if all concerns and questions cannot be addressed at the initial hearing, and a subsequent hearing to adopt the Proposed Budget and set the Tax Levy.

Following discussion of the County and School meeting dates, the Committee was recommending to the Council to set December 6, for the initial hearing date, December 13, 2000, for the continuation hearing if needed, and December 20 for the Budget and Tax Levy adoption hearing. Council Member Kelly moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee with Council Member Anderson seconding the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

Item No. 3 The Committee reviewed a letter from the League of Minnesota Cities requesting cities throughout the State to adopt resolutions supporting an initiative to "Build Quality Communities". This program is a two-year effort to change how legislators, the media and citizens look at local government. The Committee was recommending that the Council adopt the resolution as submitted and support the League's initiative in Building Quality Communities.

Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Anderson, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS, the top values and priorities of citizens include safety, family, job opportunities, health, the well-being of children and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, many of the services cities provide directly enhance those citizen priorities; and

WHEREAS, the connection between City services and how they benefit citizen priorities and concerns is not always understood by citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is one of the responsibilities of City officials to ensure legislators, media and citizens understand their governments through open and frequent communication using various avenues and means; and

WHEREAS, it is important to encourage citizens to actively participate in City government, to share their views, and to work in partnership with City officials to ensure that the needs of the community are met; and

WHEREAS, partnerships developed between citizens and City officials can result in greater understanding of the connection between Minnesota's high quality of life and the services provided by Minnesota cities, as well as in greater trust by citizens in the efforts of their City government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Willmar hereby declares its commitment to join in the "Minnesota Cities: Building Quality Communities" statewide educational effort in cooperation with our fellow members of the League of Minnesota Cities. We hereby designate the Office of the Mayor as the City of Willmar's key contact for this effort, and will inform the League of Minnesota Cities of this designation.

Dated this 20th day of September, 2000.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 4 Staff presented to the Committee a list of properties the County is required to certify from the tax-forfeited list for non-payment of taxes for the year or years 1995 - 1999. One parcel was in Country Club Terrace subdivision Lot 13, block 1 with a value of \$ 100.00. The other two parcels were in the Vos Park subdivision Lot 19, and Lot 20, block 1 with values of \$2,250.00 each.

It was noted Statutes require the County to obtain City approval before the values assigned can be recorded. The Committee was recommending to the Council approval of the values as assigned by the County Board. Council Member Kelly moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee with Council Member Anderson seconding the motion, which carried.

The Finance Committee Report of September 11, 2000, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Anderson, and carried.

The Labor Relations Committee Report of September 13, 2000, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Christianson. There was one item for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 The Committee meeting was closed to receive updates on contract negotiations with the Utility General Manager and City Department Head bargaining groups. This matter was for information only.

The Labor Relations Committee Report of September 13, 2000, was 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 Mayor and Council considered an application for a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. Police Chief Kulset presented details of the grant available from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, noting 35 percent of the money would be shared with Kandiyohi County. There is a required 10 percent match to receive the funds, and \$1,208 would be Willmar's portion of this match. The funds would be used for overtime hours for education and targeted enforcement of problem areas identified by the public and Call for Service statistics. Council Member Kelly moved to authorize the City Administrator to apply for Bureau of Assistance Local Law Enforcement Block Grant for fiscal year 2000. Council Member Reese seconded the motion, which carried.

The Mayor and Council considered a project application for FAA funds associated with the new municipal airport. Following discussion, Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Kelly, read by Mayor Heitke and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS, the sponsor has submitted to the FAA a Project Application dated August 3, 2000, for a grant of Federal funds for a project at or associated with the new Willmar Municipal Airport/Planning Area which Project Application, as approved by the FAA, is hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the FAA has approved a project for the Airport or Planning Area (herein called the "Project") consisting of the following: Acquire land, including relocation, for new airport (Parcel Nos. 13 & 16); reimburse for EA and preliminary design. All as more particularly described in the Project Application;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to and for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Title 49, United States Code, herein called Title 49 USC, and in consideration of (a) the Sponsor's adoption and ratification of the representations and assurances contained in said Project Application and its acceptance of this Offer as hereinafter provided, and (b) the benefits to accrue to the United States and the public from the accomplishment of the Project and compliance with the assurances and conditions as herein provided. THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, HEREBY OFFERS AND AGREES to pay, as the United States share of the allowable costs incurred in

accomplishing the Project, 90.00 percent thereof.

Dated this 20th day of September, 2000.

/s/ Lester Heitke
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows:
Finance, September 25; Public Works/Safety, September 26; Labor Relations,
September 27; Community Development, September 28; and Community Education and
Recreation, September 28, 2000.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting
adjourned at 8:34 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council
Member Reese, and carried.

Attest:

MAYOR

SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL