

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

March 1, 2010  
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, Steve Ahmann, Jim Dokken, and Tim Johnson; Present 7, Absent 2 - Doug Reese and Rick Fagerlie 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, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Additions to the Agenda included a closed session of the Council to discuss possible settlement involving land acquisition for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project.

Council Member Anderson offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of February 16, Rice Hospital Board Minutes of February 10, Planning Commission Minutes of February 24, and Design Center Minutes of February 10, 2010. Council Member Christianson seconded the motion, which carried.

Mayor Heitke recognized and thanked Boy Scout Tony Hunstad, Troop 227, who was in attendance as part of the requirements for the Community Service Merit Badge Award.

Mayor Heitke recognized Les Kaenel, Kammie Nelson, and Conrad Bostrom who had signed up to address the City Council during its scheduled Open Forum. Mr. Kaenel informed the Mayor and Council that March 21 – 28, 2010, is the VFW National Home for Children Awareness week. Mr. Bostrom and Ms. Nelson presented information on the “Home Front Connection” which is working on a Yellow Ribbon package and expressed appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their support.

Rick Goodeman, Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership Executive Director, appeared before the Mayor and Council to present an update of the financing package for the Westwind Estates Project. The \$5.4 million package includes a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The City had earlier signed an agreement with DEED to pass the grant through to the developer. Mr. Goodeman requested a City signature on a subordination document for the DEED Grant and explained the new financing package, funded mainly by Federal stimulus money.

Following a lengthy discussion, Council Member DeBlieck offered a motion to approve authorization for a City official to sign the Master Subordination Agreement and Estoppels' Agreement. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion, which failed on a roll call vote of Ayes 2, Noes 4 – Council Members Christianson, Ahmann, Johnson, and Dokken voted “No.”

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented to the Mayor and Council an Ordinance amending the existing sign regulations regarding electronic signs to allow animation but prohibit rapid animation as not to distract or mimic any emergency vehicles. Following discussion, Council Member Anderson moved to introduce an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1060 known as the Willmar Zoning Ordinance by amending Section 5.E.1.a related to Electronic Signs and to set a public hearing for March 15, 2010. Council Member Ahmann seconded the motion, which carried.

City Clerk Halliday informed the Mayor and Council that the Civic Center has rented space to the Willmar Curling Club to hold a two-day Novice Bonspiel-Olympic Edition on March 12 and 13, 2010, and the Club plans to serve alcohol. A Civic Center Arena Special Event Permit is required, and the Baker's Eagle Creek Eatery LLC has applied for this permit. Following discussion, Council Member Christianson moved to approve the Special Event Permit by On-sale Liquor License Holder – Baker's Eagle Creek Eatery LLC. Council Member Dokken seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 6, Noes 0.

Mayor Heitke informed the Council that Emily Ellingson, daughter of Jim and Amy Ellingson, has been crowned Junior Miss Minnesota and will be representing Minnesota at the National Junior Miss competition. Mayor Heitke congratulated Ms. Ellingson on her accomplishments and noted her sister had won the State award in 2006.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance, March 8; Public Works/Safety, March 9; and Community Development, March 11, 2010.

At 8:05 p.m. Council Member Ahmann moved to close the meeting to discuss a possible settlement of the Janssen litigation with Council Member Johnson seconding the motion, which carried. At 8:25 p.m. Council Member DeBlieck moved to reopen the meeting with Council Member Anderson seconding the motion, which carried.

Council Member Anderson moved to approve the settlement agreement with Janssen Property LP of \$87,500 for the construction of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Interceptor Project. Council Member Ahmann seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 5, Noes 0, Abstention 1 – Council Member Johnson.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m. upon motion by Council Member DeBlieck, seconded by Council Member Christianson, and carried.

Attest:

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MAYOR

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SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL