

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

February 1, 2016
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 Denis Anderson, Audrey Nelsen, Andrew Plowman, Tim Johnson, Steve Ahmann, Rick Fagerlie, and Shawn Mueske. Present 8, Absent 1. Council Member Ron Christianson was excused from the meeting.

Also present were City Administrator Larry Kruse, City Clerk Kevin Halliday, Police Chief Jim Felt, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine and City Attorney Robert Scott.

Mayor Calvin opened the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of Tim Hunstad, who held the position of Finance Director for Willmar Municipal Utilities. Mr. Hunstad passed away suddenly on January 15th and will be greatly missed by the community, as well as staff.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Council Member Anderson offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda which included the following items: City Council Minutes of January 19, Labor Relations Minutes of January 27, Rice Memorial Hospital Board Minutes of January 20, Willmar Municipal Utilities Board Minutes of January 25, Accounts Payable Report through January 27, CER Joint Powers Board Minutes of January 22, 2016, and committee applications for information as follows: Jill Benson – Human Rights Commission, Rebecca Trongaard – Planning Commission, Tom Butterfield – Zoning Appeals Board, Julie Asmus – Planning Commission, Kristal Dahlager – Human Rights Commission and Richard Engan – Human Rights Commission.

Council Member Johnson requested the Labor Relations Minutes of January 27 be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Council Member Mueske seconded the motion to adopt the remaining consent items, which carried.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve the Labor Relations Minutes of January 27 as amended with the note that he was in attendance at the meeting. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:02 p.m. Mayor Calvin opened the hearing for consideration of an Ordinance to Rezone from Agricultural (AG) to Government Institutional (G/I). City Planner Megan DeSchepper explained the request from the Willmar Public Schools District to rezone property they recently purchased just off of Willmar Avenue SE and Lakeland Drive SE. The property would be changed from Agricultural to Government Institutional for the purposes of developing an elementary school.

There being no one to speak for or against the ordinance to rezone, Mayor Calvin closed the hearing at 7:03 p.m. and opened it up for discussion by the Council. Council Member Plowman requested a brief explanation on how the rezone will affect the property taxes collected by the City which was answered by City Clerk Halliday and School Superintendent Holm. Council Member Anderson offered a motion to adopt, assign a number and order final publication of the Ordinance to Rezone from AG to G/I. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

At this time, Mayor Calvin acknowledged Boy Scout Troop 565 (sponsored by the Willmar VFW) who were in attendance to study for their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

There were no requests to speak during the Open Forum.

Council Member Anderson commented briefly on the reactivation of the Human Rights Commission which has been in place, yet silent for some time. City Administrator Kruse presented a statement prepared detailing the history and mission of the Human Rights Commission which was established by ordinance in February of 1994 with a mission to facilitate equal opportunity and improve human relations for all citizens of the City of Willmar. Bylaws for the commission were adopted in 1994. The Human Rights Commission acts in an advisory capacity and relays civil rights issues to the Mayor, Council and other agencies of government. Initially the commission will meet monthly and then quarterly or as determined by the group. The Mayor appoints the Chair and Vice Chair and the first meeting is tentatively set for February 18, 2016 at 4:45 p.m. with a location yet to be determined.

City Planner DeSchepper presented the information for consideration of introduction of an ordinance for the sale of City-owned property. The City Council recently approved a purchase agreement with Dooley Bros. LLP for the sale of three lots in the Industrial Park. The next step in the process is the adoption of the required ordinance. It is staff's recommendation to set a public hearing. Council Member Fagerlie made a motion, seconded by Council Member Plowman to set the hearing for February 16, 2016. The motion carried.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance, 4:45 p.m. at City Hall, February 8; Council Retreat; 5:00 p.m. at Willmar Conference Center, February 9; Public Works/Safety, 4:45 p.m. at City Hall, February 10; Community Development, 4:45 p.m. at City Hall February 11, 2016.

Council Member Mueske announced there are two meetings scheduled for 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. on February 4th with identical agendas to gather input from the public with discussion of future visions, values and activities at the Willmar Community and Activity Center.

Council Member Johnson announced the Willmar Community and Activity Center is hosting a couple of music events on Saturday February 13th at 2:00 p.m. and an additional musical presentation on February 14th in the afternoon.

Council Member Ahmann requested discussion relating to all other boards, committees and commissions having their meetings recorded similar to the Council subcommittees so that the public can hear their statements and have access to information that was said at the meeting. Staff noted that the various boards and commission of the City are currently recorded and available on the website i.e., Airport and Planning Commissions and the Board of Zoning Appeals. It was suggested that the City Clerk look into historical facts as to why some meetings shouldn't be recorded and what the legal rights are.

Council Member Ahmann mentioned the price of oil being significantly lower this year and the concern for street maintenance asking the Council and staff to consider increasing our street project this year. He also expressed concern for how far the City is behind.

Council Member Anderson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting with Council Member Ahmann seconding the motion, with carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Attest:

MAYOR

SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL