

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

May 15, 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 Doug Reese, Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Denis Anderson, Nancy Houlahan, Rick Fagerlie, Jim Dokken, and David Chapin; Present 9, Absent 0.

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 City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Proposed additions to the agenda included discussion of the second meeting in June, and Item No. 7 on the Agenda, E-Commerce, was deleted.

Council Member Anderson offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of May 1, Rice Hospital Board Minutes of May 8, Planning Commission Minutes of May 8, Building Inspection Report for April, Kandiyohi Area Transit Board Minutes of March 12, Pioneerland Library Board Minutes of March 21, Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board Minutes of April 9, and Airport Commission Minutes of May 8, 2002. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried.

Fred Cogelow addressed the City Council during its scheduled Open Forum regarding possible racetrack noise reduction.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of May 7, 2002, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Reese. There were five items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Ranae Rahn, Main Street Willmar, presented to the Committee a list of requested services along with a layout map for the Block Party scheduled for June 26, 2002. After review of the map for safety concerns, the Committee was recommending to the Council approval of the layout and street closings for the Block Party as presented. Council Member Reese moved to approve the recommendation of the Public Works/Safety Committee with Council Member Christianson seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 2 Staff informed the Committee that proposals for the Civic Center/Blue Line Club connection architectural services were received from three architectural firms. The Committee reviewed findings of the interview committee which stated that all three architectural firms recommended proceeding with a feasibility study prior to entering into an agreement for construction services. The logic behind this is the possible conflicts involved in connecting two structurally different buildings. The committee recommends entering into an agreement with Johnson, Sheldon, Sorenson, and Hafner of Willmar to conduct a feasibility study for a not-to-exceed figure of \$4,900.00.

The Committee was recommending to the Council to accept the proposal for a feasibility study and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to enter into an agreement on behalf of the City. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member DeBlicke, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas the City of Willmar desires to retain an architect to provide professional services to perform a feasibility study for possible connection of the Civic Center to the Blue Line Center for the City of Willmar; and

Whereas a proposal has been made by, and an agreement prepared to retain, the firm of Johnson, Sheldon, Sorenson, and Hafner. of Willmar, Minnesota in a not to exceed amount of \$4,900 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 Mayor and City Administrator be authorized to execute the same.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2002.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 3 The Committee discussed the findings from the Mayor's Civic Center Task Force regarding ice rates. One recommendation of the Task Force was that ice rental rates are at an acceptable level and consideration should be given to a period of stabilization. The Committee reviewed the existing resolution dated June 7, 2000 setting the rates through 2003. After a lengthy discussion, no action was taken, therefore the ice rates will increase to \$107.00 per hour for the 2002-2003 season. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 4 The Committee considered the annual request to close a portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW south of Becker Avenue for the EMS Week Celebration on May 20, 2002, from 4:00 - 8:30 p.m. Staff foresaw no safety issues. The Committee was recommending to the Council to approve the request as presented. Council Member Reese moved to approve the recommendation of the Public Works/Safety Committee with Council Member Christianson seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 5 The Committee considered a staff recommendation to award the contract for the 2002 Sewer and Water Main Improvements to the low bidder, R and R Excavating of Hutchinson, Minnesota for a cost of \$840,930.20. The majority of this project includes new development and is funded by developer's agreements. The Committee was recommending to the Council to accept the bid of R and R Excavating and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to enter into a contract on behalf of the City.

Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Christianson, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, a Municipal Corporation of the

State of Minnesota, that the bid of R and R Excavating Inc. of Hutchinson, Minnesota for City Project No. 0202 – 2002 Sewer and Water Improvements is accepted, and be it further resolved that the Mayor and City Administrator of the City of Willmar are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the bidder for the terms and consideration of the contract in the amount of \$840,930.20.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2002.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of May 7, 2002, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Christianson, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

The Community Development Committee Report of May 8, 2002, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member DeBlieck. There were six items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Representatives of the Kandi Racing Association were present to review race track operations. Issues discussed included racing curfew, noise limits, dust, egress routes, and litter. The representatives of the Association stated that all Wisconsin rules are being complied with, and they pledged to adhere to the conditions of their Fair Board lease. A number of neighbors to the fairgrounds voiced their opposition to racing in general, and the local track in particular.

The Council discussed the need to be sensitive to residents of the area regarding noise and subjecting the neighborhood to such a nuisance, noting that the future of the Fairground use for racing should be reviewed. Council Member Reese moved to set up a citizen task force to address the future of racing and facilities in the City of Willmar. Council Member Chapin seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 2 The Committee discussed the subject of downtown/historic preservation. Leroy Jasmer presented the case for municipal involvement with architectural review of building projects in the Central Business District, as well as the preservation of existing historical buildings. Staff informed the Committee that the Planning Commission had met several times in the past with staff from the Minnesota Historical Society to discuss preservation issues.

Mr. Jasmer requested that a committee be formed to deal with preservation issues. Mayor Heitke suggested a historical preservation board that would serve in an advisory role to the Council. Staff will contact the League of Minnesota Cities to get information on structuring a local historic preservation organization. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 Michelle Schwitters of the Willmar Lakes Area Convention and Visitors Bureau presented the results of a campground study. The study included a number of recommendations by the CVB. Surveys from the local Good Sam Club were also reviewed. The Committee debated campground needs and location options.

Council Member Dokken read a letter from Richard Falk regarding Kandiyohi County camping facilities and their vacancy rates. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 4 Staff explained the local targeted marketing effort to the Committee. The process is being lead by a group from the Kandiyohi County Rural Development Finance Authority. Committee Members were encouraged to review the targeted marketing information that had been mailed to them and to submit comments to the targeted marketing group. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 5 The Committee reviewed the following projects: Home Depot, Mills, YMCA, Independence Place, Willmar Pet Hospital, Hughes Clinic, the airport, the air cargo project, and the helicopter base project. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 6 The Committee considered a request from Fred Cogelow to consider the creation of an aesthetic design committee to review and comment on major projects. The Committee took the suggestion under advisement, and this matter was for information only.

The Community Development Committee Report of May 8, 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 Fagerlie, and carried.

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented to the Mayor and Council for consideration a final plat of the Willmar Pet Hospital Addition, a one-lot place for a new veterinary clinic. It was noted the required easement have been added to the plat. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the Willmar Pet Hospital Addition final plat with Council Member Fagerlie seconding the motion, which carried.

City Clerk Halliday informed the Mayor and Council that it is necessary to designate the polling locations for the 2002 elections. Following discussion, Resolution No. 3 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Chapin, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

### RESOLUTION NO. 3

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the following buildings be designated as the official voting locations for the 2002 Primary and General Elections:

FIRST WARD: 1 <sup>st</sup> Precinct	Senior Citizens Center
2 <sup>nd</sup> Precinct	624 North Highway 71
3 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct	Lakeview Apartment Building
	300 North 7th Street
	Ridgewater College
	15th Avenue Northwest
SECOND WARD: 1 <sup>st</sup> Precinct	St. Mary's Catholic Church
2 <sup>nd</sup> Precinct	713 Southwest 12th Street
3 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct	Vinje Lutheran Church
	1101 Willmar Avenue Southwest
	Christian Reform Church
	1708 Southwest 8th Street
THIRD WARD: 1 <sup>st</sup> Precinct	Cardinal Apartments
2 <sup>nd</sup> Precinct	407 Southeast Lakeland Drive
	Highland Apartments
	115 East Becker Avenue



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SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL