

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

January 22, 2003  
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 Members 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, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Council Member Fagerlie offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of January 13, 2003, Community Education and Recreation Board Minutes of November 22, and Housing Redevelopment Authority Board Minutes of December 10, 2002; and Exempt Permit for Sertoma Club and Pheasants Forever. Council Member Christianson seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:02 p.m. Mayor Heitke opened a hearing on an Ordinance Amending Rates Charged by the Municipal Utilities Commission of the City of Willmar, a Public Utility, To Be Effective for Billings Sent On and After March 1, 2003. Municipal Utilities General Manager Mike Nitchals presented details of the proposed increase noting the last electric rate increase was four years ago and the cost of service has an overall increase of 2½ percent. New to the rate structure were higher rates for the four summer months. Upon hearing all those who wished to be heard, Mayor Heitke closed the hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Council Member DeBlieck offered a motion to adopt, assign a number and order final publication of the Ordinance Amending Rates Charged by the Municipal Utilities Commission of the City of Willmar, a Public Utility, To Be Effective for Billings Sent On and After March 1, 2003. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 6, Noes 0.

Mayor Heitke recognized Fred Cogelow who had signed up to address the City Council during its scheduled Open Forum regarding the making of snow for upcoming snowmobile races.

Mayor Heitke recognized Police Chief Kulset who talked to the Mayor and Council about the Police Department's Canine Unit. Following a brief history of the project grant and approval process, Chief Kulset introduced Officer Craig Lange and the Department's newest member, Cato, who is a 16-month old German Sheppard. Officer Lange talked about his 5-week training program in Colorado where he met Cato and began intensive training focusing on tracking and drug searching/identification techniques. Officer Lange also talked about the work Cato has done in the short time he has been with the Willmar Police Department and concluded with remarks about

Cato's care and need for continuous training. Following a brief question and answer period, the Mayor thanked Officer Lange and Cato for their presentation to the Council and wished them many years of success together.

The Mayor and Council considered a tabulation of bids for the WEAC air conditioning project for the auditorium and alternate bids for the stage. Following discussion, Council Member DeBlieck moved to refer the matter to the Public Works/Safety Committee for consideration. Council Member Chapin seconded the motion, which carried.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance, January 27; Public Works/Safety, January 28; and Community Development, January 30, 2003.

Mayor Heitke announced that in a recent Jennie-O Turkey Store monthly magazine Denis Anderson is recognized for his 35 years of service with the company. The Mayor congratulated Council Member Anderson for his years of service with Hormel/Jennie-O Turkey Store.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, and carried.

Attest:

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MAYOR

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SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL