

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Finance Committee of the City of Willmar met on Monday, October 31, 2016, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present: Denis Anderson Chair
Shawn Mueske Member
Audrey Nelsen Member

Others present: Finance Director Steve Okins and City Administrator Mike McGuire.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 4:45 p.m.

Item No. 2 Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Item No. 3 Amend Ordinance No. 463 Rural Service District Land Designation (Motion)

Staff explained to the Committee that now that Kandiyohi County has assumed the City Assessing duties, they noted that "Ordinance No. 463, An Ordinance Establishing Urban and Rural Service Districts in the City of Willmar Under Authority of 1965 Session Laws, Chapter 712", was approved on August 13, 1966, designating certain areas of land in the Rural Service District. This ordinance created an urban service district and a rural service district (agricultural land) because properties in the rural service district do not receive the same number of City services as properties in the urban service district. Since Ordinance No. 463 was first approved, the City of Willmar has grown substantially and new areas are now eligible to be included in the District and others no longer qualify. Areas proposed to be removed or updated are located in Sections 10, 11, 13, 14, 20, and 23 of Township 119, Range 35 which have since been developed. Areas proposed to be added are located in Sections 4, 8, 18, 19, 26, and 27 of Township 119, Range 35; Sections 35 and 36 of Township 120 Range 35 (Dovre Township); and Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, and 24 of Township 119, Range 36 (St. John's Township). Information on Ordinance No. 483, which addresses the rates for these districts, will be presented at a future date.

Following discussion, Council Member Mueske made a motion to authorize the City Attorney to draft an amendment to Ordinance No. 463 to add or remove property as applicable in the Urban and Rural Service Districts for Council review. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion which carried.

Item No. 4 Comprehensive Assessment Policy Section W: Agricultural Land Exemption (Information)

Staff presented the Agricultural Land Exemption Policy to the Committee for review per City Council directive. This policy addresses special assessments as they relate to agricultural land within the City limits. When exempted property is sold or developed, the property pays for its share of the greater of 1) the assessment at the time of the improvement or 2) the valuation of the improvement in the current year in which the property is sold or developed. It was noted that interest is not charged. It was the consensus of the Committee that no changes be recommended at this time. However, questions were raised about how the City of Willmar's policy relates to policies of other communities. The Committee directed staff to provide information on the results. This matter was for information only.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM by Chair Anderson.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Cunningham".

Carol Cunningham
Accounting Supervisor