

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

December 18, 2006  
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, Cindy Swenson, Rick Fagerlie, Jim Dokken, and Steven Gardner; 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, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Council Member DeBlieck offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of December 4, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of December 11, Planning Commission Minutes of December 13, Housing and Redevelopment Authority Minutes of November 14, Airport Commission Minutes of November 21, 2006; and Exempt Permit Application for the Willmar Hockey Association. Council Member Reese seconded the motion, which carried.

Mayor Heitke acknowledged that no one had signed up to address the City Council during its scheduled Open Forum.

Representative Alan Juhnke and Senator-Elect Joe Gimse appeared before the Mayor and Council to discuss the upcoming legislative session. Senator-Elect Gimse stated he was one of 56 senators and representatives newly elected to go to St. Paul and that he was assigned to the Transportation Policy and Budget, Agricultural Policy and Budget, and State and Local Government Policy Committees. Representative Juhnke noted that he will be the Chair of the Agriculture, Rural Economics and Veterans Affairs Finance Committee. The Mayor and Council congratulated them on their successful elections and requested that they work on various topics and pending needs of the City of Willmar which included the new Wastewater Treatment plant, the Veterans nursing home, transportation and library funding needs. The Mayor thanked them for their attendance and he looked forward to working with each of them on the many issues forthcoming in 2007

The Finance Committee Report for December 11, 2006, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Anderson. There were five items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 The Committee reviewed a schedule of events anticipated for the 2007A Bond Issue for financing the Waterview Business Park project. Total bonding for this project is estimated at \$3,226,000 and will be the first of two improvement bonds to be issued in 2007 with the second one earmarked for other street improvements.

The Committee was recommending the Council authorize Staff to start the process of issuing 2007 bonds for the Waterview Business Park project. Council Member Anderson moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee with Council Member Dokken seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 2 Staff informed the Committee that anticipated local option sales tax collections for 2006 should be close to the budgeted amount of \$1.5 million. The funding process was also reviewed with the Committee in which the sales tax received from the State of Minnesota and the vehicle excise taxes are placed in the special revenue fund. Once a contract is approved for a particular project, that amount is transferred to the Capital Projects Fund for disbursement. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 The Committee received an update on the status of the F-14 Tomcat. The deadline for removing the jet has been extended as long as it is moved to another area of the Minneapolis Airport. Funds raised to date total \$31,715 for demilitarizing and transporting the plane to Willmar's Airport. The Council previously voted to contribute a match of up to \$25,000 but had not designated where the funds would come from. Staff was recommending to the Committee that excess 2006 building permit revenues be used for this match.

The Committee was recommending the Council match funds up to \$25,000 for demilitarizing, transporting and displaying the F-14 Tomcat using excess 2006 building permit revenues as the source of the match. Council Member Anderson moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee with Council Member Dokken seconding the motion. Council Member Gardner requested that the displaying expense not be part of the matching funds and to save some funds for the Library shortfall. Council Member Gardner offered a motion to table the matter, which failed due to the lack of a second. The original motion then carried.

Item No. 4 The Committee acknowledged receipt of the following reports: October Rice Trust, November EDC Financial, November Local Option Sales Tax, November CVB Financial, November WRAC-8 Financial. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 5 The Committee discussed the Library funding request for an increase of \$44,417 to the City's Maintenance of Effort payment. Staff explained that the formula for the Maintenance of Effort amount requires that the level of future payments cannot be less than the previous year's contribution. The Committee asked Staff to contact Representative Junke and Senator-Elect Gimse regarding possible legislative action that could be pursued to help struggling libraries across the State as well as Willmar to reinstate and/or increase Library Aid payments. It was noted that further discussion would take place at a future Committee meeting. This matter was for information only.

The Finance Committee Report for December 11, 2006, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Dokken, and carried.

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson informed the Mayor and Council that to move forward with the expansion of the Industrial Park, it's necessary to vacate a portion of TH 40 and re-route a portion of Willmar Avenue. The first step in the process is to seek the turnback of that portion of TH 40 between CSAH 47 and US Highway 12. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member DeBlieck, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS, Trunk Highway 40 is an east-west collector highway serving the City of Willmar from the west, and

WHEREAS, Trunk Highway 40 is an impediment to industrial park expansion in the City of Willmar, and

WHEREAS, the City of Willmar has prepared a transportation plan which includes road construction and re-routing so that it is no longer necessary that Trunk Highway 40 exist east of CSAH 47, and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that no State turnback funds are available at this time to assist the City of Willmar with costs related to the turnback.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Willmar does hereby accept the turnback of that portion of Trunk Highway 40 between CSAH 47 and US Highway 12.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2006.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented to the Mayor and Council a final plat for Hidden Valley Estates, a 41-lot plat south of Valley Brook Estates. The property was rezoned from Ag to R-1 for single-family home development. The Planning Commission approved the plat. Council Member Anderson moved to approve the final plat for Hidden Valley Estates with Council Member Dokken seconding the motion, which carried.

City Administrator Schmit presented to the Mayor and Council plans and specifications for the Civic Center/Blue Line building connection. Richard Engan and Angela Holm, of Engan and Associates, and Kevin Madsen, Civic Center Manager, appeared before the Mayor and Council to review the renderings and provide answers to the design layout. Bidding would take place in February with Spring construction planned. Following discussion, Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Dokken, seconded by Council Member Reese, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS the Architect for the City of Willmar has presented to the City Council plans and specifications for the connection of the Civic Center to the Blue Line Center for the City of Willmar;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that:

Final plans and specifications are hereby approved, and publication of the advertisement for bids is herewith authorized. Bids will be publicly opened and read in February, 2007, at the City Office Building, 333 Southwest Sixth Street, Willmar, Minnesota.

