

City of Winsted  
City Council Work Session  
Lewis Room  
Tuesday, January 15, 2013  
5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Steve Stotko  
Council Member Tom Ollig  
Council Member Bonnie Quast  
Council Member George Schulenberg

Staff Present: Brad Martens, City Administrator  
Raquel Kirchoff, Administrative Assistant

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Stotko called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**II. Winstock Agreement**

Mr. Martens stated that an agreement has been drafted for the 2013 Winstock Country Music Festival for Fire Protection. The changes from the agreement from last year are that Winstock has raised the amount for Fire Protection to \$750, from \$500, and that the land lease agreement between Winstock and the Winsted Municipal Airport has been added to the agreement. Mr. Martens confirmed the days needed for this land lease agreement with Council Member Ollig.

The City Council members directed Mr. Martens to place the agreement on a future agenda for City Council approval.

**III. Other**

**a.) City Council Appointment**

Mr. Martens stated the City received three (3) letters of interest for the vacant City Council position from Mike Thonvold, Max Fasching and Jeff Albers. The City Council will consider a motion to appoint an eligible Winsted resident to the City Council at tonight's City Council meeting.

Mr. Martens stated that according to Minnesota State Statute, if there is a tie between two (2) individuals when the City Council votes, the Mayor will decide who will receive the appointment.

Council Member Ollig stated that he is the City Council liaison for the Planning Commission and that Mr. Fasching has been a Planning Commission Member for five (5) years. He continued by stating that Mr. Fasching is familiar with City business and is a contributing member of the Planning Commission, who researches the information provided to him before the meetings and shares good comments during the meetings. Council Member Ollig stated that he believes Mr. Fasching would be a good fit as a City Council Member.

Council Member Ollig stated that if the City Council would appoint Mr. Fasching as a City Council Member, the City Council could offer the Planning Commission vacant position to Mr. Thonvold, since he is interested in becoming involved in City Government. This would give Mr. Thonvold insight into City business if he would decide to run for a City Council position again in two (2) years.

Council Member Quast agreed with the comments that Council Member Ollig shared.

Council Member Schulenberg stated that he does not know the three (3) individuals well, but agreed that it would be good to have someone be able to step into the vacant Council position that knew what has been happening with City business. From what Council Member Ollig shared, Council Member Schulenberg stated that it sounds like Mr. Fasching has the experience

from the Planning Commission and can begin to contribute to some of the current business that the City Council has.

Mayor Stotko stated that Mr. Thonvold has run for a City Council position a number of times and that he thought Mr. Thonvold answered questions extremely well at the Political Forum that was held before the General Election in November, 2012. He continued by stating that Mr. Thonvold submitted a thorough letter of interest and also that Mr. Thonvold has participated in the Blandin Leadership Training in the past, which helped individuals to build skills needed for positions like a City Council position.

Mayor Stotko stated that he would be fine with either Mr. Thonvold or Mr. Fasching being appointed. He continued by stating that he hopes that Mr. Thonvold will consider the Planning Commission vacant position if the City Council appoints Mr. Fasching. This Planning Commission position will give a new member a great amount of City business experience.

Mayor Stotko stated that if the individuals were present at the City Council meeting, they would be welcome to share their comments if they chose to do so.

#### **b.) City Council Retreat**

Mr. Martens stated that once a new City Council member was appointed, the City Council Retreat could be scheduled. The City Council members discussed the retreat, how it should be structured, and directed Mr. Martens to schedule it with the City Department Heads present for a portion of the retreat to share input for their Departments.

#### **c.) Council Meeting Agenda Amendments**

Mr. Martens stated that there are amendments to the agenda for tonight's meeting as follow; adding the liquor license and the gambling permit for Winstock, a minor language change within the motion to appoint Raquel Kirchoff as Deputy City Clerk, and a resolution added to consider selecting Bolton and Menk, Incorporated as the consultant for the Winsted Municipal Airport.

#### **d.) Short Term Disability Leave, Deborah Boelter**

Mr. Martens gave an update on Ms. Boelter's Short Term Disability leave and the City Council discussed possible alternatives to compensate Ms. Boelter for her time spent on phone discussions with the City from home while she is on leave.

#### **e.) Letter to Minnesota Representatives**

Council Member Ollig suggested that Mr. Martens send letters to Winsted's representatives, Minnesota State Senator Newman and Minnesota Representative Gruenhagen, and also to his sister, Minnesota Representative Selcer, and his brother-in-law, Minnesota State Senator Hoffman addressing the importance of Local Government Aid (LGA) and unfunded mandates. Mr. Martens stated that he would draft a letter.

Mr. Martens gave an update on his recent and future meetings at the Minnesota State Capitol.

#### **f.) Annexation of the Millerbernd Property**

Mr. Martens stated that the Winsted Township will be submitting a letter to the City regarding the amount of property tax payment it will have to pay to the City after the annexation is complete. Mr. Martens stated that this information would be reviewed by the City Council at a future meeting.

### **V. Adjourn**

**Council Member Quast motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Ollig seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

*Steve Stotko*  
Steve Stotko  
Mayor  
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

*Raquel Kirchoff*  
Raquel Kirchoff  
Administrative Assistant  
City of Winsted