

City of Winsted
City Council Work Session
Lewis Room
February 1, 2011
5:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Andrew Elbert, City Administrator
Deb Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer

I. Call to Order

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

II. Ordinance Updates: Snowmobile and Liquor License - Minnesota State Statute 340A.409 Change

Elbert presented the proposed amendments to the Snowmobile Ordinance and Liquor License Ordinance.

Elbert asked the City Council if they would like to continue having public hearings to adopt and amend ordinances. Boelter stated that the City is not required to hold a public hearing for ordinance adoption and amendments.

The City Council discussed and agreed to continue with public hearings for ordinance adoption and amendments.

III. Winsted Municipal Airport – Capital Improvement Plan

Elbert gave an overview of the meeting that was held on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 with representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation/Office of Aeronautics (MN DOT/OA). Elbert asked the City Council for direction on how the City Council would like to proceed with the projects identified in the Winsted Municipal Airport's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Mochinski recommended that the City Council postpone any directives for staff in regards to the Winsted Municipal Airport's CIP until after the February 8, 2011 Airport Commission meeting.

Mayor Stotko stated that after reviewing the information provided regarding the meeting with the FAA and MN DOT/OA, it is his understanding that the representatives from the FAA and MN DOT/OA would like to the City to follow the projects identified in the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Mochinski stated that Joe Johnson, Westside Skydivers, would like to construct a larger hangar and administration building at the Winsted Municipal Airport. Quast asked how the other hangar owners feel about Johnson's proposal. Mochinski stated that they are in favor of it.

Mayor Stotko asked if the City Council will have to make a decision quickly on what projects to approve in the CIP. Elbert stated that the representatives from FAA and MN DOT/OA stated that the City Council has time to decide what they want to do.

IV. Cell Phone Tower Lease Proposal

Elbert stated that the City of Winsted has received a proposal from Unison Site Management, Limited Liability Company (LLC) to purchase the City's cell phone water tower easement.

Ollig stated that he does not believe that the City should give up future revenue for a one time cash payment.

The City Council discussed and agreed with Ollig. They directed Elbert to contact Unison Site Management, LLC and decline the offer.

V. Winsted Holding Activities That Unite People (WHAT UP) – Audio and Video Equipment Proposal

Elbert presented a proposal from Winsted Holding Activities That Unite People (WHAT UP) for the purchase of audio and video equipment to show their “Movies InThe Park” in Mill Reserve Park.

Ollig stated that the organization has had great success with, and attendance at, their “Movies In The Park.” Their organization has benefited the City of Winsted in many ways.

Ollig stated that he would like to see the City fund the purchase of the equipment through the Cable Fund. He also stated that he would like the equipment to be stored at City Hall and made available for other groups and organizations in the City.

Mochinski stated that he would like to see the City purchase the equipment and agrees with Ollig that it should be stored at City Hall.

Schulenberg agreed with Mochinski and Ollig.

Mochinski and Quast asked for additional bids from other vendors and would like WHAT UP to research other options for a viewing screen. They thought \$5,000 for a screen was too much money.

The City Council directed Elbert to have WHAT UP obtain two (2) more quotes and explore other options for a viewing screen. They requested that a representative from WHAT UP attend a future City Council meeting to present their proposal.

VI. Downtown Interest Letter

Elbert presented a letter that the City received from Dr. James Neff, Winsted Gentle Dental Care, regarding the condition and look of the current downtown with the empty storefronts. Dr. Neff suggested that the Winsted Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Winsted and the Winsted Arts Council develop a partnership to consider options for filling the empty storefront windows with Winsted themed displays.

Quast stated that she would like to see the business owners help fund any art work that is done on the storefronts.

Ollig recommended that the City Council discuss the proposal from Dr. Neff at the City’s Goal-Setting session and proceed accordingly.

Mayor Stotko agreed with Ollig that the City Council and staff should discuss the proposal at the Goal-Setting session.

Mochinski recommended that staff contact the downtown business owners to confirm that they are interested in having murals and/or art work in their storefront windows. Ollig agreed and stated that if the business owners are not interested in having the improvements made to their storefronts, then why would the City, Winsted Area Chamber of Commerce and Winsted Arts Council get involved or offer funding.

VII. League of Minnesota Cities Community Conversations

Elbert presented a League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) program available to cities in Minnesota. The program is titled “Cities, Services and Funding: Broader Thinking, Better Solutions.” The City of Winsted would submit an application to the LMC to be considered to host community conversations with residents about the future of city services.

The City Council discussed and agreed that it may be helpful and provide new ideas for the City of Winsted to consider.

Elbert stated that he will prepare and submit the application.

VIII. Personnel Policy

Elbert presented Kelly Dohm's proposal of updating the City of Winsted's Personnel Policy.

Mochinski stated that he thinks Elbert should update the Personnel Policy.

Ollig stated that he would like to see Dohm update the City's Personnel Policy because she is knowledgeable in Federal and Minnesota State employment laws.

Mayor Stotko stated that he would like to wait to update the Personnel Policy and put an overall freeze on future spending until the City knows if their Local Government Aid (LGA) will be reduced in 2011.

The City Council discussed and agreed with Mayor Stotko's recommendation to put a freeze on all spending until the City knows if their LGA is going to be reduced.

IX. General Updates

a) Future City Council Meetings

Mayor Stotko proposed that the City consider saving money by reducing City Council meetings to once a month.

Ollig agreed.

The City Council discussed and agreed to talk about it at the Goal-Setting session.

b) City of Winsted's 125th Anniversary – Year 2012

Ollig stated that the City of Winsted's 125th Anniversary is in 2012 and that there is a committee that is preparing for the celebration. Ollig stated that at the time of the 100th Anniversary, the City of Winsted budgeted \$10,000 for that committee. Ollig stated that he would like the City to budget \$10,000 to \$15,000 in 2012 for the 125th Anniversary committee.

X. Adjourn

Mochinski motioned to adjourn. Schulenberg seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah R. Boelter
City Clerk-Treasurer