

City of Winsted
City Council Work Session
Lewis Room
Tuesday, February 19, 2013
5:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Brad Martens, City Administrator

I. Call to Order

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

II. Membership Request – Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

Mr. Martens stated that he attended a Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities conference on February 6, 2013 and was very impressed with this organization and the report that the lobbyists had with Governor Dayton. Mr. Martens requested to become a member of this organization and described benefits from a membership. He explained the fees for a membership, stating that they are based on a tiered system with a fee of \$675 for the first year, progressing to \$2,700 for the fourth year of membership and beyond. He continued by stating that the City does not need to commit to four (4) consecutive years of membership.

Council Member Ollig asked what this organization could provide that the League of Minnesota does not provide. Mr. Martens stated that it focuses more on the greater Minnesota cities more than the League of Minnesota Cities who also represents the metropolitan areas and tends to focus on the metropolitan areas. Members of the Coalition are not only small cities in rural areas, but larger cities like Duluth and Rochester who have influence because of their City's population.

Council Member Ollig stated that it would be a benefit to belong to the organization if they focus on cities that are not in the metropolitan areas of Minnesota.

The City Council recommended that the City become a member of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities for one year and determine whether it continues membership after that year is finished.

III. Preservation Alliance of Minnesota – Minnesota Main Street Program

Mr. Martens stated that Nancy Fasching of the Southwest Initiative Foundation approached the City of Winsted with an opportunity to receive a partial scholarship to attend a Main Street basic training program. Mayor Stotko explained what he learned about the program while working with the Downtown Vibrancy Task Force. Mayor Stotko stated that this program could be a good tool for the development of Winsted's downtown area. He stated that the first step would be to establish who the members of the Downtown Vibrancy team will be and then let that team decide if they will attend this training.

Mr. Martens stated that staff at the Preservation Alliance recommended sending the entire group to the training, rather than just one (1) or two (2) individuals when moving forward with a program; however, sending one (1) or two (2) individuals to this training in March, 2013 may be a good idea to see if it is a program the community wants to make a larger investment in. Mr. Martens stated that possibly a City Council Member and a member of the Chamber of Commerce could attend.

Mr. Martens stated that the Southwest Initiative Foundation is offering Winsted a \$500 scholarship toward this training.

Mr. Fasching asked how many people are planned to be members of Winsted's Downtown Vibrancy team. Mayor Stotko stated that the goal would be seven (7) members. He stated that the City Council will need to decide if all Council Members, or just a few, will be members of this team. Mayor Stotko stated that once the team is formed, he feels this training should be mandatory for the team. If there is a fall training session offered, it may be better to wait for that session so the team will be formed by then.

Council Member Quast asked if the members of the Downtown Vibrancy Task Force could be members of the new team that is formed. Mayor Stotko stated that those members were told that they were a part of a task force and once their assignment was completed, the force would be disbanded; however, if the City Council moved forward with recommendations from the force, they could be involved with the new established team if they were interested.

Council Member Schulenberg stated that when the Downtown Vibrancy Task Force held an Open House at City Hall, a variety of people attended and showed interest so he believes that the City should be able to form a team of interested people that want to see action for the downtown area.

Mayor Stotko stated that there is time before the City Council needs to decide if anyone will attend the training event in Winona on March 28 – 29, 2013. Mr. Martens stated that registration must be completed by March 20, 2013. The City Council recommended that Mayor Stotko and Council Member Ollig attend this March training to gain background knowledge for the team that will be formed.

IV. Airport Commission Recommendation – Expiration to Approved Commercial Operation Agreement Unless Signed

Mr. Martens stated that the Winsted Airport Commission had a meeting and approved a motion recommending that the City Council consider attaching an expiration date to terminate the agreement offer to Westside Skydivers if the agreement has not been signed.

The City Council stated that they would like to implement an expiration date and discussed possible dates. They directed Mr. Martens to add this item to the March 5, 2013 City Council Agenda, with an expiration date of April 1, 2013.

The City Council discussed what Mr. Johnson was exploring for options other than operating in Winsted.

V. Other

a.) League of Minnesota Cities Legislative Conference

Mr. Martens stated that he would be attending the League of Minnesota Cities Legislative Conference on March 21, 2013 and invited any Council Members that may be interested to attend with him.

b.) Transportation Study

Mr. Martens stated that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the University of Minnesota Extension Office will be completing a study on transportation with manufacturers within MnDOT's Region Eight (8). Mr. Martens explained the study, stating that it would involve business visits with manufacturers and asked if the City Council would like him to participate in helping with this study. The City Council stated yes. Mr. Martens asked the Council Members to let him know if they are interested in attending the visits to the manufacturers with him.

c.) Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted High School Update

Mr. Martens stated that there would not be an update from the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted High School at tonight's City Council Meeting because the student intended to provide the update is ill.

d.) Chamber of Commerce Radio Program

Council Member Ollig stated that he would not be able to attend the radio program on February 28, 2013 with Mr. Martens. Mayor Stotko stated that he would attend with Mr. Martens.

e.) Goal Setting Session

Mr. Martens asked how the City Council would like to provide feedback on the City Council Goal Setting Session that took place on February 15, 2013, to ensure that this type of session is accomplishing what the Council wants. Mayor Stotko stated that he would like a checklist type form with some areas to comment sent to the City Council. Mr. Martens stated that he would use the agenda for the day to prepare a document to send to the City Council. The City Council Members stated that they liked the session and thought it was productive.

VI. Adjourn

Council Member Schulenberg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Fasching seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Steve Stotko

Steve Stotko
Mayor
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Raquel Kirchoff

Raquel Kirchoff
Administrative Assistant
City of Winsted