

City of Winsted  
City Council Work Session  
Lewis Room  
Tuesday, April 17, 2012  
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: Brad Martens, City Administrator  
Deborah R. Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Website Services and City Publications – Herald Journal Newspaper**

Mr. Martens stated that the City received a request from the Herald Journal Newspaper to discuss the City's website services and City publications.

Chris Schultz addressed the City Council to present items for them to consider that would help reduce costs for the maintenance of the City of Winsted's website.

Council Member Mochinski stated that the City should evaluate the cost of putting the City Council meeting video on the City's website. Mr. Schultz gave the statistics on the number of visitors to the City's website to view the City Council meeting video. Council Member Mochinski stated that if there are so few visitors to the City's website to view the City Council meeting video, he believes that the City should discontinue spending the money to have the Herald Journal prepare the video for installation on the City's website.

The City Council discussed eliminating the City Council meeting video from the City's website.

Mr. Schultz addressed the City Council regarding his concerns about the items the City is publishing and including in their monthly utility bills that are not government related. Mr. Schultz asked what the City of Winsted's intentions are in the future of supplying information in the utility bills regarding community events. Mr. Schultz stated that he has concerns about the City violating the First Amendment of the United States Constitution by allowing some organizations to include information in the monthly utility bills and prohibiting others.

Mr. Schultz also expressed concern in regards to advertising revenue that is lost to the Herald Journal when events and/or activities are allowed to advertise for free in the City's monthly utility bills.

Council Member Ollig stated that the City of Winsted does not want to jeopardize revenue to local businesses by allowing organizations to include information in the City's utility bills.

The City Council discussed Mr. Schultz's concerns.

Mr. Martens asked the City Council for the opportunity to research what the City can legally allow to be published and included in the monthly utility bills. He continued by stating that he would also research the possibility of developing a policy that would outline what organizations, events and/or activities will be allowed to have information in the monthly utility bills.

The City Council directed Mr. Martens to research the aforementioned items and present his findings at a future City Council meeting.

Council Member Ollig stated that depending on what information Mr. Martens obtains, the Herald Journal may also be asked to attend the future meeting.

### **III. 2013 Budget Process**

Mr. Martens stated that it is time to start discussing the preparation of the 2013 Budget.

Mr. Martens asked the City Council to schedule a Special Work Session for Tuesday, May 22, 2012 to discuss the 2013 Budget.

The City Council discussed Mr. Martens request and directed him to schedule a City Council Special Work Session for Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Lewis Room at City Hall.

### **IV. Other**

#### **a) 221 Andy Avenue West**

Mr. Martens stated that the resident living at 221 Andy Avenue West contacted him regarding some concerns they had with the Public Works Department closing the street to remove a fallen tree. The resident requested that when the Public Works Department needs to close a street, they should post a notice about the closing of the street on the houses located on or in the area of the closed street. The resident felt this would allow property owners to prepare for the street closure in regards to accessing their property.

Mr. Martens continued by stating that the street was closed for a short time and the Public Works Department employees were on site, available to talk with concerned residents. He stated that he does not recommend requiring the Public Works Department to post a notice on the houses for this type of street closure.

The City Council discussed the resident's concern and agreed with Mr. Martens recommendation that the Public Works Department should not post notices for this type of street closure.

#### **b) Winsted Municipal Airport Arrival/Departure (A/D) Building – Sign**

Mr. Martens presented a drawing of the sign for the Winsted Municipal Airport's Arrival/Departure (A/D) building.

The City Council discussed the proposed sign and directed Mr. Martens to have the sign constructed and installed on the Airport's A/D building.

#### **c) McLeod County Solid Waste – Tour of Hutchinson, Minnesota Facility**

Mr. Martens stated that McLeod County Solid Waste has invited the Winsted City Council to their facility in Hutchinson, Minnesota.

The City Council discussed the invitation and declined the tour.

#### **d) Jim Hausladen – Property Rental**

Mr. Martens stated that Jim Hausladen has accepted the City of Winsted's offer to rent their property for farming purposes at the increased rate of \$200 per acre.

#### **e) Brad Martens – Leave**

Mr. Martens stated that he is uncertain when his leave for the birth of his child will begin. He continued by stating that he will keep the City Council and staff informed of when he plans to be out of the office.

#### **f) Winsted Police Department – Resident Recording**

Mr. Martens played a voice mail message that he had received from a resident commending the Winsted Police Department for their quick response and handling of a medical emergency that she witnessed at Glenn's Super Valu in Winsted.

**g) Downtown Vibrancy Forum – Monday, April 30, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Stotko directed staff to post a notice for “a possible City Council quorum” at the Downtown Vibrancy Forum scheduled for Monday, April 30, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Vollmer Room at City Hall.

**V. Adjourn**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

*Steve Stotko*

Steve Stotko  
Mayor  
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

*Deborah R. Boelter*

Deborah R. Boelter, MCMC  
City Clerk-Treasurer  
City of Winsted