

City of Winsted
City Council Work Session
Lewis Room
Tuesday, May 15, 2012
5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Council Member George Schulenberg

Staff Present: Brad Martens, City Administrator
Deborah R. Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer
Mike Henrich, Winsted Police Department Chief

I. Call to Order

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

II. Winsted Police Department – Squad Car Replacement

Chief Henrich gave a brief overview on the history and schedule of replacing the Winsted Police Department's squad cars.

Chief Henrich presented the list of the Police Department's existing squad cars and the number of miles on each car.

Chief Henrich stated that the Police Department obtained quotes for a car and for a sports utility vehicle (SUV). He continued by stating that the Ford Company no longer makes the Crown Victoria; which has been the type of squad car that the Winsted Police Department has purchased in the past.

Chief Henrich stated that the vehicle would be used for, and beneficial in, responding to emergency calls during inclement weather. Chief Henrich continued by stating that several Police Departments are purchasing an SUV for a squad car; including the City of Lester Prairie, Minnesota; City of Glencoe, Minnesota; City of Howard Lake, Minnesota; City of Hutchinson, Minnesota and the McLeod County Sheriff's Department.

Chief Henrich stated that he obtained two (2) quotes. One (1) from Holt Motors in Cokato, Minnesota and one (1) from Waconia Ford in Waconia, Minnesota. Holt Motors had the lower quote by a difference of approximately thirty dollars (\$30).

Council Member Quast asked Chief Henrich which dealership had the lowest quote on the Ford Taurus. Chief Henrich stated that Holt Motors did with a difference of approximately \$400.

Mr. Martens stated that the squad car would be a cash purchase paid from the Capital Equipment Fund. He continued by stating that there is approximately \$252,000 in the Capital Equipment Fund in the year 2012. It is the only scheduled capital purchase in the year 2012.

Council Member Mochinski asked Chief Henrich if he had completed a cost analysis on the Ford Taurus versus the SUV in regards to gas mileage, replacement of parts and/or other repairs. Chief Henrich stated that he had not completed a cost analysis.

Council Member Mochinski asked Chief Henrich if there have been any emergency calls in the past that the Winsted Police Department has not been able to respond to due to inclement weather. Chief Henrich stated yes. A Police Officer had to have the Public Works Department bring him to a domestic call because the squad car could not maneuver through the deep snow.

Council Member Mochinski shared his concerns about receiving criticism from Winsted residents if the Winsted Police Department purchases an SUV for a squad car.

Chief Henrich stated that the Ford Taurus does not have rear windows conducive to patrolling. They are little and it is difficult to see out of them. It will also be difficult to move larger arrestees in and out of a Ford Taurus due to limited space in the back seat.

Council Member Quast stated that she considered a Ford Taurus when car shopping and she confirmed that the rear windows have poor visibility. She continued by stating that employees at Holt Motors told her that Ford is changing the design of the future Taurus because of the poor visibility of the rear windows.

Council Member Mochinski asked Chief Henrich if he has considered any of the Chevrolet vehicles for a squad car. Chief Henrich stated that many of the Chevrolet vehicles have the same issues with their rear windows. He continued by giving a brief overview of why they prefer Ford vehicles for squad cars.

Mr. Martens asked the City Council if it is appropriate to present the quotes at the June 5, 2012 Regular City Council for discussion and possible approval.

The City Council discussed and directed Mr. Martens to bring the squad car quotes to the next City Council meeting for discussion and approval. The City Council also directed Chief Henrich to prepare a cost analysis comparing the gas mileage, replacement of parts and/or repairs of the Ford Taurus versus an SUV to be presented at the June 5, 2012 Regular City Council meeting.

III. 171 McLeod Avenue West – Abatement Process

Mr. Martens asked the City Council if he can direct the City Attorney, Fran Eggert, to manage the abatement process for the damaged house located at 171 McLeod Avenue West.

Council Member Quast asked what happens to the property if the owner does not want to abate the public nuisance.

Mr. Martens stated that Mr. Eggert did determine that the property owner has not been making the mortgage payments so the property will eventually be given to the company that holds the mortgage.

Council Member Mochinski asked Mr. Martens if the legal expenses and/or other costs that the City incurs during the abatement of the property can be assessed against the property taxes for 171 McLeod Avenue West.

Mr. Martens stated that the City's ordinance allows the City to assess expenses incurred during the abatement process to the property taxes.

The City Council discussed and agreed that Martens should have the City Attorney, Fran Eggert, manage the abatement process for 171 McLeod Avenue West.

IV. City Park Signs

Mr. Martens gave a brief overview of the background of replacing the City's park signs.

Mr. Martens stated that Council Member Quast has taken the initiative to contact a Winsted business regarding the construction of new signs for the City's parks. He continued by stating that Council Member Quast was able to have the signs constructed at a discounted price and also found sponsors to help fund the various park signs.

Council Member Quast presented a drawing of the proposed park signs and gave a brief overview of the Winsted businesses that agreed to sponsor the particular signs.

Mr. Martens stated that the City's expenses for the new park signs would be paid from the General Fund's Park Budget, the line item for Park Improvements.

Mayor Stotko asked Mr. Martens if the City Council would need to approve the proposed park signs. Mr. Martens stated yes and that he would be presenting the new park signs at the June 5, 2012 Regular City Council meeting for discussion and/or approval. Mayor Stotko stated that after the signs are constructed and completed for the City's parks, he would like the City to consider having the same type of signage made for the City's buildings. He continued by stating that he would like to see the same type of signage installed at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), the Winsted Municipal Airport, the Public Works Department, the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department and/or other City buildings so that the City's signs are the same.

Council Member Ollig congratulated Council Member Quast on the work she did to obtain the park signs at a discounted price and for obtaining the various sponsorships from Winsted businesses.

V. Keg's Bar – Sunday Liquor License

Mr. Martens stated that Keg's Bar, 121 – 1st Street North, does not meet the restaurant requirements of the City's Liquor Ordinance in regards to having a Sunday Liquor License.

Mr. Martens stated that City staff has discussed the issue with the owner of Keg's Bar, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety/Alcohol Enforcement and the City Attorney, Fran Eggert. Staff is proposing that the City Council amend the City's Liquor Ordinance to include that a "limited food restaurant" is allowed to have a Sunday Liquor License.

VI. Other

a) Schedule a Public Hearing - June 5, 2012 – Liquor Ordinance Amendment

Mr. Martens stated that the Consent Agenda for the May 15, 2012 Regular City Council meeting has been amended to include the scheduling of a Public Hearing on June 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Winsted City Hall to consider adopting amendments to the Liquor Ordinance.

Ms. Boelter stated that the amendments include allowing a "limited food restaurant" to have a Sunday Liquor License and also to include additional sale provisions governing persons selling or furnishing alcoholic beverages pursuant to a caterer's permit issued in compliance with Minnesota State Statute § 340A.404(12).

b) Resolution R-12-11 – Westgate Neighborhood Improvement Project

Mr. Martens stated that Resolution R-12-11 was added to the Consent Agenda for the May 15, 2012 Regular City Council meeting to approve the plans and specifications, and ordering the advertisement for bids, for the Westgate Neighborhood Improvements Project.

c) Mr. Martens – Extended Leave of Absence

Mr. Martens thanked the City Council and staff for their assistance in maintaining the operations of the City during his extended leave of absence after the birth of his son.

VII. Adjourn

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

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

Steve Stotko

Steve Stotko
Mayor
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Deborah R. Boelter

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