

Present: Mayor Steve Stotko – Temporary Acting City Administrator
Council Member Tom Ollig
Council Member Bonnie Quast
Council Member George Schulenberg
Council Member Max Fasching

Staff Present: Ms. Deborah R. Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer
Mr. Chad Engel, Winsted Volunteer Fire Department Chief

1) **Mayor Stotko called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

a) **The Pledge of Allegiance was taken.**

2) **Consent Agenda**

Council Member Fasching motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Quast seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

a) **Minutes – City Council – Regular Meeting – July 2, 2013**

Accepted the minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of July 2, 2013.

b) **Minutes – City Council - Work Session – July 16, 2013**

Accepted the minutes of the City Council Work Session of July 16, 2013.

c) **Minutes – City Council – Regular Meeting – July 16, 2013**

Accepted the minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of July 16, 2013.

d) **Winsted Summer Festival – Fireworks Contract**

Approved the outdoor fireworks display contract with RES Specialty Pyrotechnics Incorporated to provide fireworks at the Winsted Summer Festival on Friday, August 9, 2013.

e) **Appointment – Winsted Volunteer Fire Department**

Appointed Ms. Samantha Condon to the position of Firefighter with the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department.

f) **Resolution R-13-15 - Winsted Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association – Gambling Contribution**

Adopted Resolution R-13-15 to accept a contribution from gambling proceeds from the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association in the amount of \$15,000 to be dedicated toward the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department's Capital Improvement Plan.

g) **Resolution R-13-16 - Winsted Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association Gambling Contribution**

Adopted Resolution R-13-16 to accept a contribution from gambling proceeds from the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association in an amount not to exceed \$800 to be dedicated to the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department for photographs of Fire Department members.

h) **Resolution R-13-17 - Agreement for Airport Maintenance and Operation**

Adopted Resolution R-13-17 authorizing the City of Winsted to enter into a grant agreement for the financial assistance of the State of Minnesota for maintenance and operation of the Winsted Municipal Airport.

i) Security Bank and Trust Company – Pledged Securities

Approved the Pledged Securities that Security Bank and Trust Company has purchased for the City of Winsted for the month of July, 2013.

j) June, 2013 Financial Report

Approved the June, 2013 Financial Report.

k) Claims

Approved the Claims List for August 6, 2013.

3) No Public Hearings.

4) No Old Business.

5) New Business

a) Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities – Update

Ms. Amanda C. Duerr, Lobbyist and Communications Director with Flaherty Hood, presented the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) summer 2013 Legislative Session Report.

Ms. Duerr stated that the CGMC represents eighty-three (83) cities across the State of Minnesota. She continued by stating that the CGMC lobbied with the Minnesota State Legislature in regards to the following issues:

- Local Government Aid (LGA) and Property Taxes.
- Sales Taxes.
- Economic Development.
- Annexation and Land Use.
- Environmental Regulation.
- Transportation.

Ms. Duerr stated that the CGMC actively worked with the Minnesota State Legislature to develop and establish a new formula for LGA. A new LGA formula was established and it is a more stable and predictable formula than the current one (1). Ms. Duerr stated that the new formula has a yearly appropriation adjustment based on inflation and population growth.

Ms. Duerr stated that with the approval of the new formula, the City of Winsted will receive \$628,505 in LGA under the year 2014 Omnibus Tax Bill. Under the previous formula, the City would have received only \$559,169 in LGA in the year 2014.

Ms. Duerr stated that with the approval of the new LGA formula, cities will not lose their LGA in the year 2014 and very few cities will lose their LGA over time. Unfortunately though, the approval of the new formula does not include an inflation adjustment. She continued by stating that CGMC will have to ask the Minnesota State Legislature at each budget cycle to adjust for the inflationary factor.

Ms. Duerr stated that the City of Winsted will receive a total of \$547,848 in LGA in the year 2013. With the approval of the year 2014 Omnibus Tax Bill, the City's LGA will be increased \$80,657 in the year 2014.

Council Member Quast asked if there is a proposal to eliminate the LGA to cities in the future. Ms. Duerr stated that there is no immediate plan. The goal of the LGA program is to assist cities in providing the basic services necessary for their residents.

Mayor Stotko asked if the LGA approved for the year 2014, will be in effect for an extended period or could it be reduced and/or taken away from cities like it has in the past. Ms. Duerr stated that with the approval of the year 2014 Omnibus Tax Bill by the Minnesota State Legislature, the new LGA formula is law. She continued by stating that at any point the Minnesota Legislature can change the law; however, the new LGA formula is a more solid and stable formula. Ms. Duerr stated that there is broad support among the Minnesota State Legislature for the new LGA formula. The recently approved year 2014 Omnibus Tax Bill will provide cities with the new LGA formula amounts for the years 2014 and 2015. She continued by stating that the economy is improving and she does not think that there is any immediate concern for cities in regards to their LGA being a target to help balance the State of Minnesota's budget.

6) Department Report

a) Winsted Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Chad Engel, Winsted Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) Chief, reported on the following:

- **WVFD Membership:**
 - The WVFD currently has twenty-six (26) firefighters. Two (2) of the firefighters are probationary members. A full roster would include thirty (30) total firefighters.
 - One (1) applicant has been accepted to the position of probationary firefighter. Another applicant is currently considering purchasing a house in Cokato, Minnesota so they would not be eligible to be a WVFD firefighter.
- **Total Number of Calls:**
 - The total number of calls in the year 2013 has been 157 to date.
- **Purchases:**
 - The office improvements at the Fire Station are finished. There are some small items to purchase.
 - Portable water backpacks were purchased to be used when fighting grass fires.
 - New extrication equipment was obtained at the beginning of July, 2013. The firefighters were trained in using the equipment. Modifications are being made to the WVFD vehicle "Rescue One (1)" to accommodate the storage of the new extrication equipment.
- **Ridgeview Medical Center:**
 - Ridgeview Medical Center has implemented a "CHASE" vehicle for emergencies in the cities of Winsted and Lester Prairie, Minnesota. The vehicle will be stored in the Howard Lake, Minnesota Fire Station and medical personnel will respond from there. There will be one (1) medical personnel staying in the WVFD's Station.
- **Vehicle Repairs:**
 - Mr. Engel gave a brief overview of the WVFD's vehicle repairs.
- **Activities that the WVFD has and/or will be Participating In:**
 - Supplied emergency services to Winstock Country Music Festival. There were eight (8) medical calls.
 - Offered their annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser the Thursday, June 6, 2013 before Winstock Country Music Festival.
 - Winsted's National Night Out on Thursday, August 8, 2013 at Mill Reserve Park.
 - Assisting with the Winsted Summer Festival's "Fun Run" on Saturday, August 10, 2013.
 - Assisting with the Winsted Summer Festival's "Kiddie Parade" on Saturday, August 10, 2013.
 - Will be holding the annual WVFD's Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, August 11, 2013.
 - Will be participating in the Winsted Summer Festival's Annual Parade on Sunday, August 11, 2013.
- **Year 2014 Budget:**
 - Mr. Engel stated that he is working with Mayor Stotko and Ms. Boelter to finalize the WVFD's year 2014 Budget.
- **Improvement Projects:**
 - Mr. Engel stated that he is working with Mayor Stotko on some improvement projects that have been proposed to be completed on the WVFD's Station.
- **Training:**
 - The WVFD continues to participate in the State of Minnesota's training reimbursement program.

- The WVFD will be conducting driving course training in September, 2013.

Council Member Fasching asked that with the Life Link helicopter being moved from Hutchinson, Minnesota to Willmar, Minnesota, will that effect the City of Winsted in the event of an emergency. Mr. Engel stated that there are various companies that provide helicopters for emergency services and if one is needed in Winsted, the closest one (1) to Winsted is sent.

Council Member Ollig asked Mr. Engel if any of the current firefighters are planning to retire. Mr. Engel stated that there are no scheduled and/or planned retirements at this time.

The City Council thanked Mr. Engel and the WVFD for all they do for the Winsted Community.

7) **No Open Forum.**

8) **Announcements**

a) **City Administrator Search**

Mayor Stotko gave an update on the City Administrator hiring process and schedule.

9) **Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Steve Stotko

Steve Stotko
Mayor and Temporary Acting City Administrator
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Deborah R. Boelter

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