

City of Winsted
City Council Work Session
Lewis Room
Tuesday, August 6, 2013
5:00 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Winsted Library Options – Ms. Julie Guggemos

Ms. Julie Guggemos, Winsted Public Library Board Representative, presented a preliminary drawing of a proposed addition to the existing Winsted Public Library. Ms. Guggemos stated that the Winsted Public Library has limited space and it is difficult to provide programs for the different age groups of Library patrons.

Ms. Guggemos presented a breakdown of the funding request from Pioneerland Library System for additional funding from the City of Winsted.

Council Member Ollig asked Ms. Guggemos how many patrons are using the Winsted Public Library. Ms. Guggemos stated that when the Winsted Public Library is compared to the other libraries in the Pioneerland Library System, the circulation of the Winsted Public Library is double that of the other libraries similar in size. She continued by stating that if you compare the Winsted Public Library to other libraries similar in size in McLeod County, our Library would be compared to the Brownton, Minnesota Public Library and Winsted Public Library has three (3) times the circulation of the Brownton Public Library.

Council Member Fasching asked Ms. Guggemos what the additional space would be used for. Ms. Guggemos stated that the additional space would be used for expansion. She continued by stating that there would be additional computer stations, additional reading areas, expansion of the media and book collection, additional space for programs, etcetera.

Mayor Stotko asked Ms. Guggemos if the Pioneerland Library System has requested additional funding from Winsted Township. Ms. Guggemos stated no. She continued by stating that the Pioneerland Library System's budget for the Winsted Public Library is funded by McLeod County. Ms. Guggemos stated that she believes that Pioneerland Library System has asked McLeod County for additional funding.

Council Member Quast asked if the additional space could be rented out for different functions and/or Community organizations. Ms. Guggemos stated that the additional space would have been a great place for the Winsted Arts Council; however, they just signed a one (1) year lease for the building they are currently in. She continued by stating that it would be a good addition to the Winsted Public Library if the Winsted Arts Council would share the facility with the Library.

Ms. Guggemos stated that the availability of the space in the old Dueber's area of the building is a great opportunity for the Winsted Public Library and she would like to see the Library take advantage of this opportunity.

Council Member Schulenberg stated that the Winsted Lions Club has been successful in their fundraising efforts in the past. He continued by stating that he would be willing to ask the Winsted Lions Club Board if the profits from some of the fundraisers they conduct could be dedicated to the Winsted Public Library. Council Member Schulenberg stated that the Winsted Public Library is a true asset to the City of Winsted and the Winsted Lions Club Board members

recognize the value of the Library.

Ms. Guggemos presented a possible grant opportunity that is available through the Blandin Foundation for a broadband initiative. She continued by stating that the Winsted Public Library is one (1) of few buildings in Winsted where wireless fidelity (Wi Fi) is available for free. Ms. Guggemos stated that if the Winsted Public Library can show that the proposed expansion would increase the availability of Wi Fi, they may be eligible for some grant funding that would assist with the some of the cost of the proposed expansion.

Mayor Stotko stated that he has discussed the proposed expansion with Mr. Mark Ranum, Executive Director of the Pioneerland Library System and both agree that the availability of the old Dueber's area is an opportune time for the Winsted Public Library to expand.

Council Member Ollig stated that funding for the proposed expansion is an issue; however, the availability of the old Dueber's area is a great opportunity and the Winsted Public Library is important to the Community.

Mayor Stotko stated that the City's year 2014 Budget is being prepared.

Mayor Stotko stated that the City Council should discuss what they would like to do about the proposed expansion and once they come to a consensus, have Mr. Ranum, Executive Director of the Pioneerland Library System come to a future City Council Work Session.

Council Member Fasching stated that his only concern is that the building is for sale and if it is sold the new owners may require a larger rent.

The City Council discussed the proposed expansion.

The City Council agreed that they are in favor of expanding the Winsted Public Library.

The City Council directed Ms. Guggemos to contact Mr. Ranum and ask him to attend the August 20, 2013 City Council Work Session to discuss the proposed expansion. They also directed her to have a final estimate of the construction costs for the proposed expansion from the owners of the building where the current Library is located. The City Council asked Ms. Guggemos to obtain more information on the possible grant from the Blandin Foundation.

III. Industrial Park Location

Mayor Stotko asked the City Council to discuss which site of the two (2) proposed sites they would like to pursue for a future Industrial Park. The City Council discussed and agreed that they would prefer the Montgomery Property for a future Industrial Park for the following reasons:

- ✓ The Entinger family may take longer to come to a consensus on the sale of their property.
- ✓ The Montgomery Property has more buildable acres.
- ✓ The lots are larger on the Montgomery Property.
- ✓ The potential of an Airport related business coming to the Industrial Park on the lots adjacent to the Winsted Municipal Airport.
- ✓ The Montgomery Property has wetland credits with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR).
- ✓ McLeod County has already determined the road access to the property that will flow well with the traffic.
- ✓ There are several black walnut trees on the Montgomery Property that could potentially be sold to help offset the costs of developing the property.
- ✓ The electrical utilities are available on the south side of the Montgomery Property.
- ✓ The Montgomery Property has already been platted.
- ✓ There is a potential manufacturing business that is interested in moving to Winsted by the year 2015.

The City Council discussed and directed Mayor Stotko to discuss the sale of the Montgomery Property with Mr. Clay Montgomery.

IV. Hiring Process - Update

Mayor Stotko presented the schedule for the final interviews for the City Administrator position on August 15th, 2013.

V. Other

a) Winsted Municipal Airport – Westside Skydivers – Night Jumps

Mr. Glenn Weibel, Winsted Municipal Airport Commission, addressed the City Council on behalf of Westside Skydivers. Mr. Weibel asked the City Council to consider allowing the Westside Skydivers staff to conduct night jumps at the Winsted Municipal Airport.

The City Council discussed Mr. Weibel's request and agreed that they did not want to allow the Westside Skydivers staff to conduct night jumps because it would be a violation of their contract with the City of Winsted.

b) Proposed Ice Skating Rink

Mayor Stotko gave an update on the proposed Ice Skating Rink.

c) Sale of Edco Property – 311 McLeod Avenue West – Mr. Ed Belanger

Mayor Stotko stated that Mr. Ed Belanger, the owner of the Edco property, 311 McLeod Avenue West, contacted the City to ask if they would be interested in purchasing the property at 311 McLeod Avenue West.

The City Council discussed and directed Mayor Stotko to continue negotiations with Mr. Belanger.

d) Winsted Volunteer Fire Department – August 5, 2013 Monthly Meeting

Council Member Schulenberg stated that he attended the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department's (WVFD) Monday, August 5, 2013 monthly meeting. He continued by stating that First (1st) Assistant Chief, Mr. Brian Langenfeld, conducted the meeting and did a good job.

Council Member Schulenberg stated that he met Ms. Samantha Condon, who is being recommended to the position of firefighter with the WVFD. He continued by stating that she will be a great addition to the WVFD.

e) Herald Journal Property – Water and Sewer Connection

Council Member Quast stated that she would like the City Council to discuss the Herald Journal's request to have water and sewer brought to their property at a future City Council Work Session.

f) Blighted Properties

The City Council presented some blighted properties in the City of Winsted and directed staff to evaluate them.

VI. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 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