

City of Winsted
City Council Meeting
Council Chambers
Tuesday, February 16, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Steve Stotko
Council Member Tom Ollig
Council Member Bonita Quast
Council Member George Schulenberg
Council Member Patty Fitzgerald

Staff Present: Mr. Dan Tienter, City Administrator
Ms. Deborah R. Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer
Mr. Justin Heldt, Winsted Police 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

Mayor Stotko read the Consent Agenda.

a) Minutes – November 10, 2015 Downtown Vibrancy Commission Meeting

Accepted the minutes of the November 10, 2015 Downtown Vibrancy Commission Meeting.

b) Minutes – January 12, 2016 Downtown Vibrancy Commission Meeting

Accepted the minutes of the January 12, 2016 Downtown Vibrancy Commission Meeting.

c) Minutes – December 7, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting

Accepted the minutes of the December 7, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting.

d) Minutes – January 11, 2016 Planning Commission Meeting

Accepted the minutes of the January 11, 2016 Planning Commission Meeting.

e) Resolution R-16-09 – Airport Maintenance and Operation Grant Contract

Adopted Resolution R-16-09 authorizing the execution of a Minnesota Department of Transportation Airport Maintenance and Operation Grant Contract.

f) Winstock Country Music Festival - Large Assembly Permit*

Approved the McLeod County Large Assembly Permit for Holy Trinity's Winstock Country Music Festival for June 9th, 10th, and 11th, 2016.

g) Holy Trinity – Winstock Country Music Festival – June 9th, 10th, and 11th, 2016

Approved an Agreement between the City of Winsted and the Church of the Holy Trinity for emergency services, services provided by the City of Winsted, and the leasing of land between McLeod County Road Five (5) at the Winsted Municipal Airport during Winstock Country Music Festival, June 9th, 10th, and 11th, 2016.

h) Contract for Consultant Planning Services – Municipal Development Group

Authorized the City Administrator to execute an agreement with Municipal Development Group for Consulting Planner Services.

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 January, 2016.

j) January, 2016 Building Permit Report

Approved the January, 2016 Building Permit Report.

k) Claims

Approve the claims list for February 16, 2016.

l) Dance Permit

Approved a Dance Permit for the Blue Note Ballroom, 320 – 3rd Street South, for Saturday, February 27, 2016.

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

3) No Public Hearings.

4) No Old Business.

5) New Business

a) Year 2016 Legislative Platform

Mr. Tienter stated that during the January 28, 2016 City Council Goal Setting Retreat, the City Council reviewed possible Year 2016 Legislative Platform positions for the upcoming session of the Minnesota State Legislature. These positions express the support or opposition of the City Council regarding possible legislative actions by the Legislature.

Based on guidance provided during the Retreat, City staff prepared the following Recommended Year 2016 Platform:

- ✓ Local Government Aid Funding Increase
- ✓ Police Officer–Worn Body Camera Clarification
- ✓ Transportation Funding Increase
- ✓ Unfunded Mandate Relief; and
- ✓ Water Infrastructure Funding Increase

In order for the Council to formally express the abovementioned Platform positions, City staff prepared individual resolutions for consideration by the Council. These resolutions outline the current state of play for each issue and express both the general position and specific request(s) of the Council.

It is important to note that these particular positions do not advance or advocate any particular political party, but rather the individual policy question of concern to the Council. Any references to particular political actors or parties are only designed to describe the current status of the given issue(s).

Financially, the Recommended Year 2016 Platform seeks to decrease City costs for various programs and projects. It does not obligate the City to any additional costs or cost participation.

1. Resolution R-16-10 – Local Government Aid Increase

Mr. Tienter gave a brief overview of Resolution R-16-10. Mr. Tienter stated the City uses Local Government Aid to reduce the property tax levy on the citizens. This resolution calls for an increase of approximately \$67 million in Local Government Aid and asks that it include an annual adjustment for inflation.

Council Member Quast motioned to adopt Resolution R-16-10 supporting an increase in Local Government Aid. Council Member Fitzgerald seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Resolution R-16-11 – Data Practices Act and Officer Worn Body Cameras

Mr. Tienter gave a brief overview of Resolution R-16-11. Mr. Tienter stated this resolution supports legislation clarifying the MN Data Practices Act and officer worn body cameras. While body cameras are becoming more popular, the Minnesota State Legislature has not resolved considerable and public policy questions with regard to how the data is used, retained, who has access to the data, or what type of situations may be classified as private or public data. Many jurisdictions have opted to not pursue the body cameras until those issues are resolved.

Council Member Ollig asked Mr. Tienter if the wording in the proposed Resolution R-16-11 was reviewed and approved by the Winsted Police Department Chief, Mr. Justin Heldt. Mr. Tienter stated that the wording was reviewed with Mr. Heldt and that guidance was obtained from the Minnesota Police Chiefs Association as well as the League of Minnesota Cities.

Council Member Ollig motioned to adopt Resolution R-16-11 supporting Legislation to clarify the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and officer-worn body cameras. Council Member Schulenberg seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Resolution R-16-12 – Increase in Transportation Funding

Mr. Tienter gave a brief overview of Resolution R-16-12. Mr. Tienter stated this resolution supports an increase in transportation funding. As the City Council discussed during the budget process, the 2016-2020 Streets Capital Improvement Program is underfunded by approximately \$1.2 million over the next five (5) years.

Mr. Tienter noted during the last legislative session, the Legislature created a special program for smaller cities to help fund their infrastructure costs. The City of Winsted received approximately \$28,000 last year, which is not nearly enough to make up for the shortfall. The resolution requests the Minnesota Legislature increase the amount of transportation funding.

Council Member Schulenberg motioned to adopt Resolution R-16-12 supporting an increase in transportation funding. Council Member Ollig seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Resolution R-16-13 – Unfunded Mandate Relief

Mr. Tienter gave a brief overview of Resolution R-16-13. Mr. Tienter stated this resolution supports unfunded mandate relief. Typically the Minnesota Legislature will adopt directions or regulations that are designed to direct or inform the operations of a city. Those directions or regulations do not come with any funding, which requires a city to increase property taxes, to reduce or eliminate services in other areas to redirect funds.

Mr. Tienter stated this resolution is calling for the repeal of any unfunded mandates and further requests additional funding for unfunded mandates.

Council Member Fitzgerald motioned to adopt Resolution R-16-13 supporting unfunded mandate relief. Council Member Ollig seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Resolution R-16-14 – Funding for Water Infrastructure

Mr. Tienter noted this resolution provides a history of the issues that the City of Winsted has experienced regarding improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility due to additional unfunded mandates from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The changes resulted in the City having to change their plans to meet more stringent requirements and increased the cost of the project by approximately \$2.4 million.

Mr. Tienter stated that Resolution R-16-14 is two-fold:

- i. To remedy the situation with MPCA.
- ii. Avoid having any other cities go through the issues the City of Winsted has gone through.

The resolution further requests additional money for the wastewater treatment facility project. The current grant program would pay for up to 50 percent of the project.

Mr. Tienter noted there is strong support for an increase in funding for water infrastructure projects on the local level. In terms of the mandates by the MPCA, the Minnesota Legislature may not have time to address them given the shortness of this year's legislative session. The last clause of the resolution calls attention to the fact that the residents of the City of Winsted will be required to pay more in sewer and water fees given the delays by the MPCA.

Council Member Quast motioned to adopt Resolution R-16-14 supporting additional non-local funding for water infrastructure and streamlining of the permitting process. Council Member Fitzgerald seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

6) Organization Report

a) Howard Lake Waverly Winsted School District – High School

Mr. Jason Mix, Howard Lake – Waverly – Winsted (HLWW) High School Principal reported on the following:

- Positive experience with having the Middle School and High School in the same building. Combining the schools has allowed the school district to implement new technology for use by the students.
- The walking track in the Activity Center is now open to the public. Information was provided regarding membership to the Activity Center to use the walking track and fitness room.
- Work on the new softball field and baseball field is being completed and will be finished this year.
- MAWSECO provided some programs in the old Middle School. The building was recently remodeled, which was paid for all the various school districts, and MAWSECO is currently renting the building.
- Currently completing high school registration.

- Working with Ridgewater to provide certified nursing assistant classes in the fall. Students will receive college credits for the classes.
- HLWW is working with Ridgewater to provide students with a pathway to complete an Associates of Art (AA) degree when they graduate from high school.
- Working with the University of Minnesota to provide introductory courses for an education degree as part of the College in Schools program.
- The Makers Space in the media center now has equipment to take apart drones, equipment to build things, program items, encode software, build robots, and the students are able to use a 3D printer.
- The Media Center has become a gathering place for the students and a place to design, create, build and try new things. The school is also looking to add a Lego station.
- HLWW also has its own news station called the KLKR Laker News. KLKR now has their own screen room equipped with high-resolution cameras. Parker Kieser, a student at the school has interned with Ian Leonard at Fox 9 news station and has been doing his own weather forecasts. Weekly episodes are being done by the students and those shows are being posted on the KLKR website.
- Snow Fest is being held this week.

The individual City Council members commended Mr. Mix on the excellent work the school is doing with the students.

7) No Open Forum.

8) No Announcements.

9) Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Steve Stotko
 Mayor
 City of Winsted

ATTEST:

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