

City of Winsted
City Council Work Session
Council Room
February 16, 2010
5:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Brent Mareck, City Administrator
Deb Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer
Dave Meyer, Maintenance Lead

I. Call to Order

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

II. Wastewater Plant Operation Proposal – Dan Wroge, People Service, Incorporated

Mareck presented the proposal from Dan Wroge, People Service, Incorporated to supervise the City of Winsted's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF).

Dan Wroge and Phil Robinson, People Service, Incorporated were in attendance at the Work Session.

Wroge addressed the City Council and presented the following information:

- History of the City of Winsted and People Service, Incorporated partnership.
- Present day operations at the City's WWTF.
- Future operations at the City's WWTF.

The City Council asked Wroge and Robinson questions regarding the operation of the City's WWTF.

Mareck stated that the operation of the WWTF by People Service, Incorporated has been exceptional. Meyer agreed with Mareck.

III. Paperless Meetings

Mareck presented a proposal to go paperless with City Council meetings. Mareck stated that the funding to purchase the laptop computers, software and associated items would come from the Cable Fund.

Quast stated that with the proposed cuts to the City's 2010 Local Government Aid (LGA) she believes that the City should postpone the purchase of the computers.

Mochinski stated that he believes if the City would go paperless it would be a savings to the taxpayers. He also stated that if the City would proceed with the proposal to go paperless and purchase laptop computers, they would be making a sound business decision.

Wiemiller stated that he believes it would be a savings to the City's taxpayers if the City would purchase laptop computers and go paperless.

Ollig asked Mareck if there would be funding left in the Cable Fund after the purchase of the laptop computers if there were emergency expenses in the future. Mareck stated yes. Ollig stated that he believes that the City would be a good example to the general public if they would go paperless and purchase the laptop computers.

IV. Liquor Ordinance

Mareck gave a brief overview of the proposed amendments to the City's Liquor Ordinance.

Mareck reviewed the proposed schedule for amending the ordinance and taking public comment.

Mayor Stotko stated that the penalties outlined in the current Liquor Ordinance have not been enforced by the City Council in the past when a liquor violation has occurred. Mayor Stotko asked the City Council if they intend to follow the penalties as outlined in the ordinance if any liquor establishments violate the ordinance in the future. The City Council discussed and agreed that they would enforce the penalties as stated in the Liquor Ordinance.

V. Winsted Area Chamber of Commerce – Snow Removal in the Downtown Area

Mareck gave a brief overview of his meeting with Winsted Area Chamber of Commerce members regarding snow removal in the downtown area.

Mochinski asked if the complaints of the snow removal in the downtown area were just this year or did the Chamber members feel it was an issue in the past. Mareck stated that it has become an issue this year because buildings in the downtown area are empty and property owners are absent; therefore, not maintaining the areas around their buildings.

Meyer stated that the Public Works Department sweeps the sidewalks in the downtown area after it snows. They deposit the snow into the streets and then they remove the snow from the streets. Meyer stated that the issue is with the areas of sidewalks that their equipment cannot reach because there is not enough space between the building and a utility pole or some other object. Mochinski asked Meyer where property owners in the downtown area should deposit the snow they remove from their sidewalks. Meyer stated that they can put the snow in the street, near the curb, and it will be removed by Public Works Department the next time they plow the snow from the streets in the downtown area.

VI. Updates

a) Representative Ron Shimanski – Advantage Mailing

Mareck stated that he would be attending a meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2010 at Representative Ron Shimanski's office to discuss Advantage Mailing's participation requirements for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's Job Opportunity Building Zones (JOBZ) program.

VII. Adjourn

Ollig motioned to adjourn. Wiemiller seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah R. Boelter
City Clerk-Treasurer