

City of Winsted  
City Council Meeting  
Council Chambers  
March 2, 2010  
6:00 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  
Deborah R. Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer  
Fran Eggert, City Attorney

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

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

**2) Consent Agenda**

**Ollig motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Wiemiller seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

**a) Minutes - City Council – Work Session – February 16, 2010**

Accepted the minutes of the City Council Work Session of February 16, 2010.

**b) Minutes – Regular City Council Meeting – February 16, 2010**

Accepted the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 16, 2010.

**c) Schedule Public Hearing – Curfew Ordinance**

Scheduled a Public Hearing for Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. to consider adopting amendments to the Curfew Ordinance to be consistent with the McLeod County Curfew Ordinance.

**d) Business Subsidy Agreement Amendment – Impact Mailing**

Amended a Business Subsidy Agreement with Impact Mailing (formerly Advantage Mailing) to reduce their job creation goal from twenty-three (23) to twenty-two (22) jobs, their participation in the Job Opportunity Building Zones (JOBZ) program from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2014 and the transfer of program benefits from Advantage Mailing to Impact Mailing.

**e) Flagship Bank of Winsted – Pledged Securities**

Approved the Pledged Securities that Flagship Bank of Winsted has purchased for the City of Winsted for the month of February, 2010.

**f) Claims**

Approved the Claims List for March 2, 2010.

**3) Public Hearings**

**a) Industrial Boulevard – Street Vacation**

Mareck presented the Industrial Boulevard street vacation.

Mayor Stotko asked for public comment and no public comment was received.

**Ollig motioned to adopt Resolution R-10-08 vacating certain sections of Industrial Boulevard. Quast seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Ollig motioned to close the Public Hearing. Mochinski seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

4) **No Old Business.**

5) **New Business**

a) **Public Nuisance – 404 Westgate Drive**

Mareck stated that on February 3, 2010, the City Council adopted a Resolution ordering that an “Abatement Notice” be served upon the property owner of 404 Westgate Drive.

In 2009, the house at 404 Westgate Drive was damaged due to a fire at the residence. Upon conducting an inspection of the house, the City of Winsted’s Building Inspector certified that the house had suffered damage to the extent that it should be considered a public nuisance as defined under the City’s Municipal Code. The property owner was notified of this fact and was given sixty (60) days to remedy or personally abate the nuisance on the property.

Mareck stated that to date, the property owner has failed to remedy the nuisance by either correcting the deficiencies or removing the house from the property. The City has attempted to contact the property owner by phone, with no success.

Municipal Code requires the City Council to provide the property owner with an “opportunity to be heard.” After considering the testimony of the property owner, the City Council may provide additional time to correct the nuisance or take action by adopting a Resolution to abate the public nuisance.

Mareck presented the following options for the City Council to consider:

1. Adopt an Order of Summary Enforcement.

Summary enforcement will allow the City to initiate the process to remove the public nuisance from the property and have all the corresponding costs assessed against the property.

2. Adopt a Resolution ordering the abatement.

Ordering the abatement is a formal order from the City Council to the property owner to abate the public nuisance. The City Council would have to determine the amount of time that would be given to the property owner to abate the nuisance.

Mareck stated that there has been no indication, by letter or otherwise, that the property owner or any other party intends to remedy the public nuisance in a timely fashion. Based on these circumstances, the City Council is advised to proceed with Summary Enforcement to remedy the nuisance on the property.

**Quast motioned to adopt an Order of Summary Enforcement to abate the nuisance at 404 Westgate Drive. Wiemiller seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

b) **Computer Purchase – Paperless Meetings**

Mareck stated that the City Council had planned for the purchase of laptop computers within their 2010 budget, in order to facilitate “paperless” meetings. Although this

involves some initial investment, the primary goal of going “paperless” is to reduce costs associated with preparing packets of information for Council and Commission meetings.

The laptops would be kept at City Hall in order to maximize the overall cost savings to the City, for use at all Council and Commission meetings. The informational packets for meetings would be e-mailed out to members prior to the meeting and then accessible during the meeting via the laptop.

Mareck stated that one hundred percent (100%) of the laptop computer expenditures will be paid out of the Cable Fund, which is funded exclusively from franchise fees paid to the City by Mediacom. Funds held within the Cable Fund must be used solely for technology or technology related expenses of the City.

<b>City Council and Commission Packets</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Paper Costs	\$7
Copying Costs	\$30
Miscellaneous Costs-Gas, Office Supplies, Etcetera	\$12
Staff Time Efficiency	\$65
<b>Cost per Meeting</b>	<b>\$114</b>
Forty (40) meetings per year-Council, Planning, Park	\$4,560
<b>Costs Over 5 years</b>	<b>\$22,800</b>
Computers @ \$746 per computer	\$3,730
Annual Support, Software, Etcetera	\$500
<b>Investment Over 5 years</b>	<b>\$6,230</b>
	<b>\$16,500</b>
	<b>or</b>
<b>Total Savings Over 5 years</b>	<b>\$3,314 annually</b>

Quast presented her concerns about purchasing the laptops in consideration of the present economy and the possibility that a portion of the City’s Local Government Aid (LGA) is proposed to be unallotted. Quast stated she contacted other cities and two (2) counties and the majority do not use laptop computers.

Mochinski stated that he believes that the City should act immediately on purchasing the laptop computers to save the City money.

Ollig stated that he believes that the City should purchase the laptop computers to save money. He also believes that the use of the laptops will bring the City into a mode of communication and technology that is current and efficient.

Wiemiller stated that he believes the City should purchase the laptop computers. He stated that there is money budgeted in the Cable Fund for their purchase and the Cable Fund is to be used for technology purchases.

Mayor Stotko presented his concerns about spending the money to purchase the computers. He proposed that the City Council wait until after the 2010 Legislative Session when the City knows what is going to happen with it’s LGA.

**Wiemiller motioned to authorize the purchase of five (5) laptop computers for \$3,730. Ollig seconded. Motion carried 3-2. Mayor Stotko and Quast opposed.**

**6) Department Report**

**a) People Service, Incorporated**

Dan Wroge, People Service, Incorporated, reported on the following:

- Required repairs and maintenance that have been done at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and the Lift Stations.
- Kingsley Street generator operations.
- Sludge Storage Tank's capacity.
- Have been working with Seth Peterson, Bolton and Menk, Incorporated, on the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Plan.
- Sludge Pond abandonment.

**7) Open Forum**

**a) Lenora Kubasch, 210-6<sup>th</sup> Street North**

Lenora Kubasch, 210-6<sup>th</sup> Street North, addressed the City Council. She asked for a copy of the motion that was made by the City Council regarding the Order of Summary Enforcement to abate the public nuisance at 404 Westgate Drive. Mareck gave her a copy of the March 2, 2010 City Council meeting agenda and stated that the motion was on the agenda.

Kubasch asked what the City is doing to find a buyer and/or renter for the Historic City Hall building. Mareck stated that the building is privately owned by Todd Colonna. Colonna has completed the required repairs that were outlined in his agreement with the City. Mareck continued by stating that it is Colonna's responsibility to market, sell and/or rent the property.

Eggert stated that the City has no responsibility to market, sell and/or rent the Historic City Hall. It is privately owned by Todd Colonna.

Kubasch asked if the Historic City Hall is paying property taxes. Mareck stated yes.

Wiemiller stated that the building has a historic designation by the Minnesota Historical Society so any alterations to the building fall under the requirements and guidelines of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Kubasch asked about the water sitting in the Lakefront Promenade and the asphalt that is breaking apart. Mareck stated that the Lakefront Promenade was designed for the water to stand until it slowly drains into the Rain Water Gardens. Mareck asked Kubasch where the asphalt was breaking apart. Kubasch did not answer. Mareck stated that he is not aware of any areas where the asphalt has broken apart.

Kubasch asked if the drainage repairs that needed to be done to the lake bank in the Lakefront Promenade have been completed. Mareck stated yes.

**8) No Announcements.**

**9) Adjournment**

**Quast motioned to adjourn. Mochinski seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah R. Boelter  
City Clerk-Treasurer