

City of Winsted  
City Council Work Session  
Vollmer Room  
Tuesday, June 20, 2023  
5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Steve Stotko  
Council Member Jeff Albers  
Council Member Jesse Cafferty  
Council Member Steve Ebert  
Council Member Tom Ollig

Staff Present: Mr. Neil Schlagel, City Administrator  
Ms. Raquel Kirchoff, City Clerk-Treasurer  
Mr. Chris Bahr, Maintenance Supervisor

## **I. Call to Order**

Mayor Stotko called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m. He continued by stating that the order of the agenda would be changed to begin with the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) items.

## **II. Winsted Volunteer Fire Department – Auxiliary Firefighter Position**

Mr. Aaron Millerbernd, WVFD First Captain, stated that the proposed auxiliary firefighter position description was included in the June 20, 2023 City Council packet for review. He continued by stating that two (2) people are interested in the position, if approved, and that the position would be eligible for the WVFD's points pay system. Mr. Millerbernd stated that the WVFD struggles to have members at calls, especially during the daytime hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Millerbernd stated that a full roster for the WVFD is thirty (30) members; the auxiliary and previously approved emergency medical response (EMR) position are not full roster positions.

The City Council Members were in favor of the position.

## **III. Winsted Volunteer Fire Department – Trailer Presentation**

Mr. Millerbernd stated that Mr. Todd Koch, WVFD First Assistant Chief, was outside of City Hall with the new trailer that the WVFD purchased. The City Council Members went outside to view the trailer.

## **IV. Winsted Arts Council – Public Mural Art**

Ms. Jane Otto stated that she previously presented information to the City Council regarding a public mural. She continued by stating that a subcommittee was formed by the Winsted Arts Council; its members are Mr. Tom Specken, Mr. Ralph Millerbernd, Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Petie Littfin. The artist that was planned to paint the mural in the past was released of his commitment because of his busy schedule, so the committee selected two (2) different local artists that will work together. Ms. Otto provided examples of what the mural could look like, with the final design estimated to be presented to the committee at the end of July. The mural is planned to be painted on four (4) panels that will be placed on The Corner Bar and Grill, 111 1<sup>st</sup> Street North.

Ms. Otto reviewed the costs of the mural, with total cost estimated at \$12,000.00. She continued by stating that she is working on applying for a \$10,000.00 T-Mobile Hometown Revitalization grant and fundraising is also being planned to cover the total cost. Ms. Otto stated that a requirement of the grant application is to provide letters of support, which she requested from the City of Winsted. The City Council Members approved of providing a letter of support.

Ms. Otto stated that fundraising is planned to initially raise \$5,000.00, for maintenance and care of the mural. The City Council Members discussed City policy regarding donations; if the Winsted Arts Council is planning to donate the mural to the City in the future, an agreement for the donation and maintenance of the mural must be entered into at that time, similar to the agreement in place for the Veterans Memorial.

## **V. Downtown Lighting Repair Options**

Mayor Stotko provided and reviewed a handout with information he collected regarding downtown lighting repair and costs. He reviewed an option including a total estimated cost for repair of thirty-three (33) downtown poles at \$202,026.00. He continued by stating that Millerbernd Manufacturing also provided a quote to replace poles along McLeod County Road One (CR1) which are in disrepair. If this quote was included in the project, the total estimated cost is \$309,996.00. The 2023 budgeted amount is \$150,000.00 for lighting repairs, leaving a deficit of \$159,996.00.

Mayor Stotko reviewed other phased options for lighting repair, rather than repairing all lights in 2023. He continued by stating that the lead-time once poles are ordered is seventeen (17) weeks. If the project work occurs when there is frost in the ground, there may be additional costs for boring because of the weather conditions.

The City Council Members discussed the information and recommended for Mr. Neil Schlagel, City Administrator, to gather information for repair of all downtown lights for further review, and wait to consider repair of the CR1 lights at this time.

## VI. Other

- Mr. Schlagel stated that a bid from Bargaen for sealcoating city streets is included on the June 20, 2023 Consent Agenda. He continued by stating that Bargaen is the only company in the five (5) state area that provides the RePlay Procedure sealcoating that the City requested.
- The City Council Members discussed opening the Brush Site outside of its regular hours if a severe storm occurs again, like the recent storm that produced fallen trees and branches. If Public Works staff is called into work for storm related issues, they could open the site and leave it open until the next scheduled hours occur.
- The City Council Members discussed and approved of moving the City Council Work Sessions back into the Lewis Room, starting with the next Work Session.
- Council Member Albers requested that the City Council Members give more thought before approval of the requested Conditional Use Permit at 206 Linden Avenue East, due to the condition of the vacant house in disrepair at the location. Council Member Cafferty stated that one of the conditions for approval of the shed addition is that the entire shed be uniform in materials. He continued by stating that if the home is not going to be improved; at least there is improvement, and items currently parked or stored outside may be stored in the shed after the project is completed.

**Council Member Ebert motioned to adjourn the Work Session. Council Member Cafferty seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

The Work Session adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

*Steve Stotko*

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Steve Stotko  
Mayor  
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

*Raquel Kirchoff*

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Raquel Kirchoff, CMC  
City Clerk-Treasurer  
City of Winsted