

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

Present: Mayor Steve Stotko
Council Member Tom Ollig
Council Member Bonnie Quast
Council Member George Schulenberg
Max Fasching

Staff Present: Brad Martens, City Administrator

I. Call to Order

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

II. 2013 Winsted Summer Festival Update

Mr. Martens stated that Dale Maus and Rose Heimerl were present at the Work Session to discuss the 2013 Winsted Summer Festival, including location of the festival, the City's contribution to the Winsted Ambassador Program, and the fireworks at the festival. Mr. Martens stated that the City has budgeted for a \$1,000 donation to the Winsted Ambassador Program in 2013, and that the City pays \$840 rent for storage of the Royalty float.

Mr. Maus stated that a small committee was formed to discuss the future of the Winsted Summer Festival because of the financial hardship of the festival; however, not many decisions have been made. Mr. Maus stated that the committee has decided that the Winsted Ambassador program should be kept in the same capacity as it has been in the past, so funding of this program is an issue.

Mr. Maus stated that the Summer Festival as a whole has been losing money each year and it has been fortunate to have a small amount of reserve. Mr. Maus stated that he did not want to move forward with planning for the Summer Festival until it was known what the City expected for the festival and what the City's financing would be for the festival. Mr. Maus also stated that if the location of the festival is going to change from its current location in Hainlin Park to a downtown location at Mill Reserve Park and the Promenade, then the festival will need to change to flow with the new location.

Mr. Maus reviewed the expenses and income for the Winsted Summer Festival, and stated that currently, the Festival has a balance of \$2,200.

Council Member Ollig stated that it has been discussed that electrical work needs to be completed to support the festival activities. Mr. Maus stated that electrical work will need to be completed whether the festival is held at Hainlin Park or at Mill Reserve Park. He explained that the Electrical Inspector has required that a junction box be installed at the Hainlin Park location for power. Council Member Ollig asked what the cost of this work would be. Mr. Maus stated approximately \$3,000 for the work at Hainlin Park and considerably higher if the work was completed at Mill Reserve Park. Mr. Maus stated that if the electrical work was not completed, then smaller bands would have to be hired and that vendors would have to supply their own power through generators.

Council Member Quast asked what would have to be removed from the Summer Festival if the location was moved from Hainlin Park to Mill Reserve Park. Mr. Maus stated that the children's events would be an issue and may have to be removed. Ms. Heimerl stated that Mill Reserve Park does not provide shade from the heat like Hainlin Park does and people will less likely go to the festival if it is at Mill Reserve Park. She continued by stating that parents with small children may be worried about the lake and be less likely to go to the festival compared to when the festival is at Hainlin Park that has more room for playing and has more level ground.

Council Member Quast stated that the comments that she has heard regarding the Summer Festival are in regards to the location of the fireworks. She stated that the lake is the City's biggest asset and the fireworks should be over the lake.

Council Member Ollig stated that the fireworks are a huge draw for the Summer Festival vendors. When the fireworks are by the lake, it draws the people away from the festival and when they are done, the people go home instead of going back to the festival.

Mayor Stotko stated that one of the first items to be discussed is how much the City will help to fund the festival.

Council Member Ollig stated the budget for the Winsted Ambassador program is approximately \$6,000, so the thought was for the City, the Summer Festival and the Chamber of Commerce to split this cost evenly at \$2,000 each. Council Member Ollig stated that the Winsted Ambassador program and the fireworks are the two (2) biggest expenses for the festival. Ms. Heimerl stated that bands are a big expense also.

Mr. Fasching stated that the electrical work will need to be completed so that the Summer Festival can hire the level of bands that draw people.

Mr. Maus stated that in the past, the Summer Festival held a street dance in the downtown area. The Summer Festival lost money that year. Ms. Heimerl stated that people were in the bars more than at the festival, which hurt festival sales. Ms. Heimerl stated that the agreement during that year was that the bars would make a donation to the Summer Festival, but that donation did not occur.

Mayor Stotko stated that the City Council should first discuss if the City will fund the Summer Festival or not. He continued by stating that it would be nice to have the festival in the downtown area, but if that location cannot be worked out, the City could understand. Ms. Heimerl stated that after decisions have been made regarding the festival, it would be helpful to publish an article in the newspaper explaining the details of the festival, where the funding comes from, and why it is at Hainlin Park so that the public can understand the decisions that are made. She continued by stating that people do not understand these key items regarding the festival.

Council Member Ollig stated that if the Winsted Summer Festival, the City, and the Winsted Area Chamber of Commerce would split the expenses for the Ambassador's program evenly, at \$2,000 each, it would help the Summer Festival's budget. Council Member Quast stated that she thinks the City should contribute \$2,000 for the Winsted Ambassador program.

Mr. Maus stated that the Summer Festival has suffered due to bad weather, due to decreased sponsorships, and the reserve in the Summer Festival balance is dwindling.

Mr. Fasching asked if the fireworks could be on Friday night with the Brat Busters event. Mr. Maus stated that the Festival has tried that, but has been rained out many times and has not seen the benefit of it. Mr. Maus stated that the fireworks draw people to the Summer Festival events and if they cannot be held at Hainlin Park where the events are, the Summer Festival cannot pay for them because they are too expensive.

Mayor Stotko asked if the funding from the City that has been discussed this evening satisfied the Summer Festival's needs for 2013. Mr. Martens stated that since the 2013 Budget has been set, a donation request will need to be submitted from the Summer Festival for additional funding to be approved at a regular City Council meeting.

Mr. Maus stated that he wanted the City Council to understand the electrical work that needs to be completed and paid for by the City and also the ongoing funding needed from the City.

Mayor Stotko stated there have been discussions regarding where the best place to hold the Winsted Summer Festival is, but for the time being, the location should not be discussed and the festival should be held where it has been. In the future, if the discussion needs to happen again, it can be reviewed.

Mayor Stotko stated that if the Fire Chief says the location at Hainlin Park is a bad location for the fireworks, the City should not go against his recommendations. Mayor Stotko stated that he understands keeping the fireworks in the location of the festival helps the festival activities; however, the City would be negligent to go against the Fire Chief's recommendations.

Mr. Maus stated that he decided on the 2012 location for the fireworks based on the experience of RES Specialty Pyrotechnics with fireworks and on their recommendation that the location would work.

Council Member Quast stated that safety needs to be the number one priority and agreed that the Fire Chief should have the final say on the location of the fireworks.

Mr. Martens stated that he realizes that RES Specialty Pyrotechnics is experienced in fireworks and that they have insurance for the event; however, he relies on the recommendation from the Fire Chief. Mr. Martens stated that he would schedule a meeting between Mr. Maus, Fire Chief Engel and himself to discuss the location for the fireworks, and asked that Mr. Maus have a few options for locations of the fireworks ready to discuss at the meeting. Mr. Maus stated that Fire Chief Engel could pick a location near Hainlin Park that he would be likely to approve. Mr. Martens stated that the Fire Chief approves the location but does not choose the location.

Council Member Ollig asked if the Winsted Summer Festival Committee would consider moving the festival out of town, stating that the Winstock Grounds would be a good possibility for a location. Mr. Maus stated that this would be a good location; however, this would go against the idea that the festival is a community event.

Council Member Ollig stated that the Winsted Area Chamber of Commerce has a meeting on February 6, 2013 where they would make a decision on if they would raise their donation to the Ambassador's program to \$2,000. He continued by stating that the City will consider raising its contribution from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Council Member Ollig stated that there has been discussion to see if a business would sponsor the fireworks. These funding efforts should help the festival's budget.

III. Chamber of Commerce Radio Program – City Sponsorship

Mr. Martens stated that the Winsted Area Chamber of Commerce has a radio program the third Thursday of each month and has asked the City to sponsor the February program on KDUZ. The sponsorship cost is \$85. In return, the City would receive air time on KDUZ as a guest speaker as well as six (6) radio spots.

Mr. Martens stated that the sponsorship is not included in the 2013 budget, nor does the City have a communications plan in place. Mr. Martens asked if he should move forward with the sponsorship, and if so, what would the City Council like covered on the program regarding the City.

The City Council discussed what Mr. Martens would speak about regarding the City and what the City would advertise on the six (6) radio spots to include promoting the various activities, industry, and amenities that Winsted has to offer.

Mr. Fasching stated that he has listened to the program and feels that it is a good way to really talk about your organization.

Council Member Ollig stated that he would join Mr. Martens for the radio program.

IV. City Council Goal Setting Retreat Planning

Mr. Martens went over a draft agenda for the City Council Goal Setting Retreat on Friday, February 15, 2013 to explain what would be covered on that day and asked for any comments from the City Council members.

Mayor Stotko stated that it was important to the City Council that City Department Heads were included in the retreat. The City Council members stated that they were satisfied with the agenda and what was planned for the day.

V. Other

a.) League of Minnesota Cities Training

Mr. Martens described the training session by the League of Minnesota Cities that he had attended on Friday, February 1, 2013 and Saturday, February 2, 2013, regarding Social Media Networking and Crisis Communication.

b.) Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

Mr. Martens stated that he was invited to attend the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities conference on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 by Mayor Steve Cook from Hutchinson.

c.) Fire Department Meeting

Council Member Schulenberg stated that he attended the Fire Department Meeting on Monday, February 4, 2013 and complimented Fire Chief Engel for the great job he does as facilitator of the meetings.

d.) Westside Skydivers

Mayor Stotko stated that he and Mr. Martens would not be able to attend the Carver County Planning Commission meeting on February 19, 2013 due to the Winsted City Council meeting that is scheduled for that evening. A Public Hearing will take place at this Carver County Planning Commission meeting to discuss an application from Joe Johnson for a Conditional Use Permit for Westside Skydivers.

e.) Water Restrictions

Mayor Stotko asked if the City Council members ever remembered the City enforcing watering restrictions. Council Member Ollig stated no. He thought the reason was because Winsted was located in a large water reservoir area. Mayor Stotko stated that it should be researched in case the State of Minnesota would enforce watering restrictions because of the current drought.

VI. Adjourn

Council Member Quast motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Schulenberg seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Steve Stotko

Steve Stotko
Mayor
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Raquel Kirchoff

Raquel Kirchoff
Administrative Assistant
City of Winsted