

City of Winsted
City Council Special Work Session
Lewis Room
February 29, 2012
3:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Brad Martens, City Administrator
Deb Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer

I. Call to Order

Mayor Stotko called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. 2012 Pavement Improvement Project

Mr. Martens stated that he scheduled the Work Session to discuss the 2012 Pavement Management Plan project; so, the City Council could provide him with direction on any information they would like to have him research and/or provide for the March 6, 2012 Regular City Council meeting.

Mr. Martens presented some financing options for the City Council to consider in regards to funding the 2012 Pavement Management Plan project.

Mr. Martens presented an *Alternative Financing Plan* that would have future pavement projects financed through the Water and/or Sewer Funds depending on what infrastructure exists under the street and/or if it needs to be repaired. He stated that this type of Plan would distribute the cost of the street improvement projects to all residents.

Mr. Martens stated that to fund street improvement projects through the Water and/or Sewer Funds, there would have to be an increase to the water and sewer "minimum" rates. Mr. Martens provided the approximate "minimum" rate increase needed to fund the future street improvements beginning with the 2014 Pavement Management Plan project.

Council Member Mochinski stated that he does not believe that the City is selling these street improvement projects properly because they are being rejected by the residents.

The City Council discussed the financing options presented by Mr. Martens.

Council Member Schulenberg stated that he does not believe that the City should keep postponing the proposed street improvement projects.

Council Member Mochinski stated that he believes that the City needs to do a better job of explaining the project and selling the project to the residents.

The City Council discussed other financing options for the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department's parking lot improvements.

Council Member Mochinski stated that he believes that Mr. Martens should present the financing options he has prepared for City Council consideration to the general public in detail at the March 6, 2012 Regular City Council meeting.

The City Council discussed financing option number three (#3).

Mayor Stotko asked the City Council what they thought about postponing the 2012 Pavement Management Plan project for two (2) or three (3) years.

Council Member Ollig stated that the risk the City takes in postponing the project is higher interest rates for bonding and higher construction costs.

Council Member Ollig stated that he would not be in favor of any financing option that would increase the City's property tax levy and tax rate; therefore, putting an additional tax burden on the commercial businesses and industries in the City of Winsted.

Council Member Ollig stated that he would be in favor of financing option number three (#3).

Council Member Mochinski asked if there should be another Public Hearing and present the financing options to the Westgate residents and let them decide which option they prefer. The City Council discussed and agreed that another Public Hearing should not be scheduled.

The City Council discussed what impact their financing decision for the 2012 Pavement Management Plan project may have on future City of Winsted Councils.

Council Member Mochinski, Council Member Quast and Council Member Schulenberg stated that they would support financing option number three (#3).

Council Member Schulenberg stated that he believes that the Westgate project should be completed this year. Council Member Quast agreed.

Mayor Stotko stated that he believes that the entire Westgate project should be done and he would not be in favor of putting a "band-aid" on only the sections of streets that are damaged.

Council Member Ollig stated that to move forward with the Westgate project, the City Council will have to approve the project with a 4/5 vote. He continued by stating that the City Council should be in agreement with financing option number three (#3).

Council Member Schulenberg stated that he will vote for financing option number three (#3) as long as the project is done this year. Council Member Mochinski, Council Member Quast and Council Member Ollig stated they were in favor of financing option number three (#3).

Mr. Martens stated that the Pavement Management Plan is going to have to be amended in regards to financing. He continued by stating that it will need to be evaluated in the year 2013 to prepare for the proposed 2014 Pavement Management Plan project.

III. Winsted Volunteer Fire Department - Parking Lot Improvements

The City Council discussed the scope of the project for the Winsted Volunteer Fire Department's parking lot improvements.

IV. City of Winsted and City of Howard Lake - Trail Connection

Mr. Martens stated that he has been contacted by the City of Howard Lake, Minnesota's Administrator to discuss a trail connection between the City of Howard Lake and the City of Winsted.

The City Council discussed and agreed that Mr. Martens should pursue a possible trail connection between the two (2) Cities.

V. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Steve Stotko

Steve Stotko
Mayor
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Deborah R. Boelter

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