

City of Winsted
City Council Work Session
Lewis Room
October 19, 2010
5:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Andrew Elbert, City Administrator
Deb Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer

I. Call to Order

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

II. Liquor Seminar Meeting Discussion

Elbert gave an overview of the Consent Agenda item being presented to the City Council at their regular City Council meeting asking for approval of a \$300 administrative cost charge to *The Woods Group, Keg's Bar and Grill*, 121-1st Street North for not attending the mandatory Alcohol Licensure Forum and mandating attendance at another scheduled Alcohol Licensure Forum for Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Vollmer Room at City Hall.

Brian Langenfeld, owner of Keg's Bar and Grill, was in attendance at the Work Session to address the City Council and explained that he simply forgot about the original Alcohol Licensure Forum held on Monday, September 27, 2010 and asked the City Council to consider reducing the administrative cost charge. Langenfeld stated that he had contacted Chief Henrich the morning of the Alcohol Licensure Forum to discuss personal business and he believes that Henrich should have reminded him of the meeting.

Ollig stated that the charge is to cover the cost of preparing the materials for the forum and staff's time to conduct another meeting. Ollig stated that considering that the owners of the other liquor establishments in Winsted made an effort to be in attendance at the original Alcohol Licensure Forum, he would not be in favor of reducing the administrative cost charge. Ollig stated that the City's Liquor Ordinance establishes that the forum is an annual mandatory meeting that the liquor licensees are required to attend to maintain their liquor licenses.

Scott Bayerl, owner of The Corner Bar and Grill, 111-1st Street North, asked if Langenfeld violated his liquor license when he did not attend the original Alcohol Licensure Forum. Ollig stated no.

Quast reminded Langenfeld that the Alcohol Licensure Forum was included in the Liquor Ordinance to establish a better relationship between the liquor licensees, the City Council and the Winsted Police Department.

Wiemiller asked Langenfeld what he believes the administrative cost charge should be. Langenfeld stated that he does not believe that it will cost the City of Winsted \$300 to conduct a second Alcohol Licensure Forum for him.

Mayor Stotko stated that he does not agree with Langenfeld's statement that Chief Henrich should have reminded him of the forum. He continued by stating that the City sent the forum notice by certified mail and records show that Langenfeld did obtain the notice from the post office. Mayor Stotko stated that people have to be responsible.

Mayor Stotko reminded Langenfeld that the purpose of the Alcohol Licensure Forum is to open the lines of communication between the liquor establishment owners, the Winsted Police Department and the City Council and staff; so, it is important that everyone attend the meeting.

Mayor Stotko asked the City Council if they believe the administrative cost charge of \$300 is too high. Quast, Wiemiller, and Ollig stated no.

Bayerl again asked for clarification on whether Langenfeld was in violation of his liquor license when he did not attend the original Alcohol Licensure Forum. Ollig stated no. Ollig also stated that if Langenfeld would violate his liquor license in the future this incident would not count against his fine.

III. Part-Time Public Works Employee – Work Extension Request

Elbert presented a request from the Public Works Department's Maintenance Leads, Dave Meyer and Jamie Stotko, to have the City Council grant a work extension for their temporary, part-time employee, Matt Williams.

The City Council asked if the Public Works Department had funding available in their budget for a work extension for Williams. Boelter stated that the funding would come from the Administration's budget, the former City Administrator's unused salary. The City Council discussed and stated that they do not believe that the City should spend the unused salary.

The City Council discussed further and agreed that they did not want to approve a work extension for Williams. They requested that the Public Works Department's Maintenance Leads evaluate their time management and schedule projects and jobs that need to be done accordingly.

Mochinski asked if Meyer and Stotko, Jamie have been reviewing their 2011 budget and identifying areas where they can reduce spending. Elbert stated that a joint meeting has been scheduled and he, Boelter, Meyer and Stotko, Jamie will be reviewing the Public Works Department's 2011 budget and making the necessary cuts.

IV. Peddler's Ordinance Update

Elbert stated that he is evaluating Peddler's Ordinances from other cities and will be presenting some amendments to the City of Winsted's Peddler Ordinance for them to consider at a future Work Session. He also stated that he has contacted the League of Minnesota Cities to obtain legal opinions on Peddler's Ordinances.

V. General Project Updates

a) McLeod County Road 116 Turnback Project

Elbert gave an update on the McLeod County Road 116 Turnback Project.

Wiemiller stated that he talked to Mrs. Campbell, 560-4th Street North, and she was very pleased about how quickly the City staff responded to the issue of the sewer line breaking near their house and causing a sewer back-up in their basement.

Elbert stated that the credit goes to the Public Works Department. They took the initiative to contact Henning Excavating and have them rectify the situation immediately.

Mayor Stotko stated he would like a schematic drawing of the underground water and sewer lines so the Public Works Department has a better understanding of the infrastructure.

b) Downtown Redevelopment – Tax Increment Financing Spending Plan

Elbert gave an overview of his meeting with Shannon Sweeney, David Drown and Associates, to develop a Spending Plan to use Tax Increment Financing (TIF) monies to provide downtown businesses with a \$5,000 grant and/or low-interest loan to make improvements to the exterior of their buildings.

Mayor Stotko stated that he read the proposed Spending Plan and he would not like to see loans to business owners be forgiven. He stated that he would only approve

low-interest and/or zero percent (0%) interest loans. He would like the business owners to pay back the City for any funding they may receive.

Wiemiller asked what business owners would be allowed to do with the funding. Elbert stated that it would be given with guidelines for exterior improvements to their buildings.

Mochinski stated that if a downtown business owner would borrow \$5,000 from the City and it would be forgiven in five (5) years, he would not have a problem with that.

Langenfeld asked if the funding would be available only to the owner of the building and/or the renter as well.

Bayerl asked if the property owner would be required to provide matching funds for the City grant. Ollig stated that the property owner would receive the \$5,000 and there would not have to be matching funds.

The City Council discussed and would like the grant guidelines to include dumpster enclosures.

Ollig asked Elbert how the City Council would determine what businesses to give funding to. Elbert stated that it would be presented to all the downtown business owners at the same time and grant awards would be made on a first come, first serve basis.

Bayerl asked if the funding included labor and materials for a renovation project. He stated that it seems too easy to get the funding.

Quast stated that the City is trying to provide assistance to the downtown businesses because the City continually receives criticism that we are not doing enough for the downtown area.

Elbert asked the City Council if they would like to remove approval of the Spending Plan from the regular City Council meeting's Consent Agenda and have a Work Session with Sweeney to review the proposed program. The City Council discussed and agreed that it should be removed from the Consent Agenda and they would like an entire Work Session devoted to review the proposed Spending Plan.

c) Five Star Direct Building

Ollig presented a flyer advertising the sale of the Five Star Direct Building, 351 Lewis Avenue West. Ollig asked Elbert to contact the City's Attorney to inquire what happens to any excess funds that Citizens State Bank of Waverly, Minnesota would receive from the sale.

d) Light Pole - Linden Avenue

Quast asked if the leaning light pole on Linden Avenue East was going to be repaired or replaced. Elbert stated that it is being repaired.

e) Greg Gehrman – Blight Issues – McLeod Avenue West

Greg Gehrman, owner of the property and buildings on the corner of McLeod Avenue West and Second (2nd) Street South, was in attendance at the Work Session to address the City Council regarding the City's blight complaint charges filed against him.

Ollig asked if the blight issues had been addressed. Boelter stated that the vehicle was removed but not in the timeframe of the ten (10) days that he was given. Boelter stated that after twenty (20) days of not removing the vehicle, Officer Lammers contacted the City's Attorney, Jody Winters, and charges were filed. Boelter stated that the pile of bricks listed in the complaint still exist.

Gehrman stated that he installed a fence on his property so the pile of bricks is not visible to the general public.

Mochinski stated that the pile of bricks is still visible with the fence. Mochinski stated that several of the adjoining property owners have complained to the City and City Council members regarding the blight on Gehrman's property at the corner of McLeod Avenue West and Second (2nd) Street South. Mochinski stated that the City is required to address any complaints they receive.

Gehrman stated that he has made arrangements to have the pile of bricks removed. He asked the City Council to dismiss the charges against him.

Ollig asked if the blighting conditions are rectified by the time of Gehrman's court appearance, can the City make a recommendation to dismiss the charges. Boelter stated that she was uncertain how the process worked and that she would contact Attorney Winters. She will have Attorney Winters respond to the Council Members regarding Ollig's question.

VI. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah R. Boelter
City Clerk-Treasurer