

City of Winsted
City Council Meeting
Council Chambers
November 16, 2010
6:00 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
Deborah R. Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer
Fran Eggert, City Attorney
Dan Pohl, Police Officer

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 – November 3, 2010

Accepted the minutes of the City Council Work Session of November 3, 2010.

b) Minutes – City Council Regular Meeting – November 3, 2010

Accepted the minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting of November 3, 2010.

c) Assessment of Abatement Charges – 404 Westgate Drive

Approved the assessment of \$9,242.09 to the property of 404 Westgate Drive, Winsted, McLeod County, Minnesota, Property Identification Number (PID) R 21.110.0240, for the abatement of damaged property as previously approved in Resolution R-10-05 adopted on February 3, 2010 and the City of Winsted Order for Abatement of Damaged Property approved on March 2, 2010.

d) Assessment Certification of Abated Blight Properties - Resolution R-10-29

Adopted Resolution R-10-29 certifying the charges for the abatement of blighting conditions and levying it as a special assessment to certain Winsted properties.

e) Salary Step Increase – Dan Pohl, Police Officer

Authorized a salary step increase for Dan Pohl, Police Officer, effective November 12, 2010.

f) 2010 General Election Results – Canvassing Board

Certified the November 2, 2010 General Election results as verified by the Canvassing Board on Wednesday, November 10, 2010.

g) 2011 Fee Schedule – Schedule Public Hearing

Scheduled a Public Hearing for Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. to consider adopting the 2011 City of Winsted Fee Schedule Ordinance.

h) City of Winsted – McLeod County Road 116 and Third [3rd] Street South Improvement Project – Payment Request Number Two (2)

Approved Payment Request Number Two (2) to William Mueller and Son, Incorporated of Hamburg, Minnesota for associated work on the McLeod County Road 116 and Third [3rd] Street South Improvement Project for the dates from Saturday, September 25, 2010 to Monday, October 25, 2010.

i) October, 2010 Financial Report

Approved the October, 2010 Financial Report.

j) October, 2010 Building Permit Report

Approved the October, 2010 Building Permit Report.

k) Claims

Approved the Claims List for November 16, 2010.

3) Public Hearings

a) McLeod County Road 116 and Third [3rd] Street Improvement Project – Public Hearing on Proposed Assessment

Ollig motioned to open the Public Hearing for the proposed assessments of the McLeod County Road 116 and Third [3rd] Street Improvement Project. Quast seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Saulsbury presented the proposed assessments of the McLeod County Road 116 and Third (3rd) Street Improvement Project.

Ollig asked Saulsbury if the assessed property owners were notified of the Public Hearing. Saulsbury stated yes, they were notified by certified mail.

Mayor Stotko asked for public comment. No comments were received by the public.

Ollig motioned to close the Public Hearing for the proposed assessment of the McLeod County Road 116 and Third [3rd] Street Improvement Project. Mochinski seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

b) McLeod County Road 116 and Third [3rd] Street Improvement Project Assessment Roll – Resolution R-10-30

Ollig motioned to adopt Resolution R-10-30, a Resolution adopting the assessment roll for the public improvement of infrastructure of the McLeod County Road 116 and Third [3rd] Street Improvement Project, the improvement of the roadway and addition of curb and gutter to Third Street South from Baker Avenue to Sherman Avenue. Quast seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

4) No Department Report.

5) Old Business

a) Downtown Redevelopment – Tax Increment Financing Program Spending Plan Discussion

Sweeney presented the program guidelines and application process for the Tax Increment Financing Program Spending Plan – Downtown Beautification Program.

Ollig asked if the building owner and/or lessee can complete the improvements to their building themselves. Sweeney stated that the guidelines of the program require that the work be completed by an outside contractor for the purpose of creating new jobs.

Quast asked if the application process would be simplified. Sweeney presented the two (2) page application.

Ollig asked Sweeney about the program funding. He stated if the project is \$10,000, would the City provide \$5,000 and the applicant would be responsible for the matching amount of \$5,000. Sweeney stated yes, it is a dollar-to-dollar match with a maximum of \$5,000 available to each applicant.

Mochinski asked what the deadline is for this program. Sweeney stated that the applicant would have to start by July 1, 2011 and the project would need to be completed and program funds expended by December 31, 2011.

Ollig asked if the applicant can be the owner of the building and/or the lessee. Sweeney stated yes, with approval from the property owner.

Mayor Stotko asked the City Council members for their opinion of the plan. Mochinski stated that he believes it is a good program and will assist in the beautification of the downtown area.

Ollig agreed with Mochinski and said it provides downtown property and/or business owners with an opportunity to make improvements to their building at a reasonable cost.

Quast stated that she agrees that it is a good program.

Ollig asked Sweeney if once the program is approved and adopted, would the downtown property and/or business owners be provided with an informational meeting detailing the program and application process. Sweeney stated yes.

Mochinski mentioned that this program can be used in conjunction with the Small Cities Development Grant. Sweeney stated yes but the improvements under the City of Winsted's Downtown Beautification Program are only for exterior improvements to the building.

Wiemiller stated that he hopes qualifying downtown business owners will take advantage of this program.

Mayor Stotko stated that he had an issue with the program's guideline that states that the loan may be "forgivable" by the City. He stated that he does not believe that the loan should be forgivable. He would like the loan to be repaid to the City so there is future funding available for other downtown property and/or business owners.

Mochinski stated that he believes that the funding the City would provide is an investment in the City of Winsted's downtown area so he does not have an issue with the loan being forgiven.

Quast stated that she agrees with Mayor Stotko's opinion that it would be nice to have future funding available for other downtown property and/or business owners; however, the City is often criticized for their lack of involvement in building improvements in the downtown area and this program provides downtown property owners an affordable option to make improvements to their buildings.

b) Downtown Redevelopment – Call for Public Hearing on Adoption of Spending Plan

Ollig motioned to schedule a Public Hearing for the adoption of a Spending Plan for Tax Increment Financing District 2-6 in accordance with State of Minnesota Statue for Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of Winsted City Hall, 201 First [1st] Street North, Winsted, Minnesota. Quast seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

6) No New Business.

7) Open Forum

a) Facility Request

George Schulenberg, 530 Kingsley Street South, addressed the City Council and asked if they were aware of any facilities in the community that may be available for church services.

Ollig stated that he would send an e-mail to members of the Winsted Area Chamber of Commerce and inquire about a facility that may be available for church services. Ollig stated that he would contact Schulenberg with any responses he may receive.

8) Announcements

a) Resignation of Dawn Carnicom – Video Technician

Mayor Stotko thanked Dawn Carnicom for her dedication and exceptional service to the City of Winsted during her tenure as a video technician.

b) Ice Skating Rink – Contract Between the City of Winsted and Herald Journal

Quast asked if the City had received the contract from the Herald Journal for the proposed ice skating rink to be installed on the property located at the Herald Journal building. Elbert stated that he had received the contract today, Tuesday, November 16, 2010, and has not had an opportunity to review it yet.

9) Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah R. Boelter
City Clerk-Treasurer