

City of Winsted
City Council Work Session
Lewis Room
December 7, 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. Chris Schultz – Winsted Baseball Association

Schultz presented the invoices, paid by the Winsted Baseball Association, for maintenance to the Baseball Park, 591 Andy Avenue West, in 2010 and asked the City Council for any monetary reimbursement that may be available.

Schultz presented some future projects that the Winsted Baseball Association would like to complete at the Baseball Park, 591 Andy Avenue West:

1. Improvements to the parking lot.
2. Improve and install permanent seating and/or a grandstand.
3. Adding a sprinkler system to the baseball field. Approximately \$13,000.
4. Install an equipment shed.
5. Replace the existing outfield fence. Approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000.
6. Would like to install a picnic pavilion.

Schultz asked the City if they would be willing to obtain a loan for completion of some and/or all of the aforementioned projects and then the Winsted Baseball Association would reimburse the City for the loan payments.

Schultz stated that the Winsted's Youth Baseball Association in conjunction with the City can apply for a grant from the Minnesota Twins Baseball organization to fund certain improvements at the Baseball Park, 591 Main Avenue West.

Mochinski asked if the Winsted Baseball Association has had an increase in attendance at Winsted Wildcats games and therefore an increase in revenue. Schultz stated that there has been an increase in attendance and revenue.

Schultz stated that the Winsted Baseball Association is going to bid to host a Minnesota region baseball tournament at the Baseball Park, 591 Main Avenue West. If they receive the bid to host the tournament, the Winsted Baseball Association can make an estimated net profit of \$5,000.

Mayor Stotko asked what the approximate total cost would be for all of the proposed projects to be completed at the Baseball Park, 591 Main Avenue West. Schultz stated approximately \$85,000.

Schultz asked the City Council how they feel about assisting in the funding of the aforementioned projects. Mochinski asked Schultz to put the list of the proposed projects, and their approximate costs, in writing and forward them to the City Administrator, Andrew Elbert, so the City Council can evaluate the proposed projects and respond to the Winsted Baseball Association's request for financial assistance from the City of Winsted.

Mayor Stotko stated that the City Council and staff would have to further review the request and make a decision in the future.

Schultz stated that the Winsted Baseball Association has been working with the City of Winsted's Public Work's Department to remove the overgrown dogwood trees near the outfield fence at the Baseball Park, 591 Andy Avenue West. New, smaller trees will then be planted.

Quast asked Schultz when the Winsted Baseball Association would like an answer from the City Council. Schultz stated that they would like to move forward next spring, 2011.

Mochinski again asked Schultz to prepare a list of the proposed projects and their approximate costs, prioritizing what projects the Winsted Baseball Association would like to complete first, and forward it to Elbert.

III. Fiscal Year 2011 Budget and Truth-In-Taxation Public Hearing

Elbert presented the process of the Truth-In-Taxation Public Hearing that would be taking place at the regular City Council meeting.

Elbert presented the proposed 2011 Budget and Levy.

The City Council discussed a possible salary freeze for employees in 2011.

IV. City of Winsted 2011 Fee Schedule

Elbert presented the proposed 2011 Fee Schedule.

Mayor Stotko stated that he would like to put a moratorium on increasing the water and sewer rates in 2011.

Quast stated that she recognizes that the City should increase the water and sewer rates to help build the Water and Sewer Funds but she believes that residents are struggling financially and so she does not want to burden them with increased fees.

Ollig stated that the City Council has to be fiscally responsible and we know that there are going to be future water and sewer projects that need to be funded; so, the City should incrementally increase water and sewer rates.

Boelter reminded the City Council that the City's auditor did recommend in the 2009 audit that the City should continue to incrementally increase water and sewer rates to keep the Water and Sewer Fund balances strong.

V. General Updates

a) Winsted Municipal Airport – Camping Proposal

Joe Johnson, Westside Skydivers, addressed the City Council regarding a proposal to provide camping at the Winsted Municipal Airport. He stated that he would like to develop a campsite that would include concrete pads, water, sewer and electrical hook-ups, a shower facility and other amenities.

The City Council directed staff to work with Johnson to identify any properties near the Winsted Municipal Airport that may be available for a developed campsite.

Ollig stated that he would present Johnson's proposal to the Winstock Country Music Festival Committee to inquire about developing any of the camping property Winstock Country Music Festival owns.

VI. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah R. Boelter
City Clerk-Treasurer