

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 15, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Rick Von Holdt with the following members present: Larry Janssen, Chris Kielblock, Dennis Weber, Mike Kuhle, Amy Ernst.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Chad Nickel, Public Works Supervisor; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Angela Thiner, Assistant City Clerk; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Sam Martin, The Globe; Jason Johnson, Jay Milbrandt, Kyle Johnson, Joe Vosburgh, Josh Miller, Tyler Nienkerk.

**REVIEW OF ICE ARENA SCHEMATIC PLANS AND TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE AND DETERMINE CITY PARTICIPATION**

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, said Council approved the retainment of the architecture firm HTG to assist in programming and space needs identifying a rink and arena project to fit the needs of our current and future users at the February 26, 2024 meeting. HTG's scope of work included the following based on meetings with a City-established working group comprised of City staff and elected officials; representatives of ISD 518 and the Hockey Association.

- Preparing schematic site and floor designs for both a one-and two-sheet arena,
- Preparing exterior and interior 3D image renderings,
- Preparing a total project cost estimate, and
- Identifying the anticipated project schedule from design to bidding through construction.

HTG, along with the working group, have completed this phase of work. Staff has also developed a proposed operating budget to aid Council in determining the level of participation and financial commitment they are willing to put towards an ice arena.

Jason Johnson, Worthington Hockey Association, said the association has raised approximately \$680,000 to date for a new hockey arena. He said the life expectancy of the current arena and equipment was 20 years and it has far outlasted its life expectancy. The association is hopeful that with the commitment from other entities a new arena with two sheets of ice will be built.

Discussion was held on the impact that a new ice arena would have on the tax levy. An additional 8-17% could be added to it annually. Council Member Kuhle said a major renovation should also be considered. Council agreed, and while it recognizes the community cannot be without an ice arena, they also want to do due diligence for the taxpayers in investigating all options before a decision is made.

Council directed staff to work with HTG and get an estimate on a total renovation plan of the current facility.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC  
City Clerk