# WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
## REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Council Members present: Mike Kuhle, Diane Graber, Rod Sankey. Council Members absent: Ron Wood, Scott Nelson, Honorary Council Member Andy Johnson (excused).

Staff members present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Aaron Hagen, Daily Globe; Rich Petersen; Kevin Donovan, Jason Vote, Jason Turner, Nicole Froderman, Abraham Algadi - WREDC Board members and CEO; Cheryl Glaeser, SWIF; Tom Johnson, Nobles County Administrator (7:20 p.m.).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Oberloh announced that due to lack of Council quorum, no business would be acted on, however, the informational items on the agenda would still be presented.

## UPDATE / PRESENTATION FROM SW INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Cheryl Glaeser, Program Officer for the South West Initiative Foundation (SWIF), provided information to Council regarding SWIF, noting the Foundation recently completed going through an update. Assets of the organization total $66 million, with an annual budget of approximately $5 million. Revenue sources include the spending allotment of the general endowment, Community and Designated Foundations, program revenues, McKinght Foundation, fund administrative fees, farmland lease revenue, and other revenue. In 2013 the Foundation awarded 64 local impact grants totaling $64,000, awarded five Regional Impact Grants totaling $50,000, processed and awarded a record number of community foundation and designated fund partner grants representing an investment of over $1.4 million, booked a gift of farmland into the Keep It Growing farmland giving program, partnered with Valspar Corporation to support six community projects through the Minnesota Beautiful Picture It Painted program, they organized and supported community leaders, helped businesses grow and improve, and shared southwest Minnesota stories and promoted the region.

Ms. Glaeser said the Foundation appreciates the City's support in the past and is looking forward to working with us in the future, and thanked Council for their time.

## WORTHINGTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HOME INITIATIVE PRESENTATION

Abraham Algadi, Executive Director of WREDC, presented a proposal for a tax abatement program that would offer 100 percent abatement of taxes for new multi-family and single family homes for a five-year period. The abatement program would also include the County and the School District,

and would be forwarded to other jurisdictions within Nobles County for their consideration.  Mr. Algadi said the goal of the program would be to encourage private investment in housing in Nobles County, and to help mitigate the risk of new developments and promote new construction, and to potentially become a model for addressing housing needs in the region.  The proposal comes following a housing study that determined approximately 500 housing units are needed to meet the expected demand by 2020.  Mr. Algadi said we could easily see a 40-unit project here in Worthington and three to six condo-style units and four single family homes going up in the near future, with $5.5 million in value.  A limit should be set on the program, and it would need to be evaluated periodically.   Tom Johnson, Nobles County Administrator, said the County Commissioners had approved the program in concept.  It will be presented to the School Board on Tuesday.  WREDC will develop a plan, and Mr. Algadi noted he would bring the document back to Council for review - City staff will develop the City's program in conjunction with WREDC's plan.

**CONTINUATION OF MEETING**

Mayor Oberloh stated that the meeting would be continued to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12th, to allow for a quorum to be present to address the remaining items on the agenda.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk