

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 29, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Council Members present: Mike Kuhle, Diane Graber, Rod Sankey, Ron Wood, Scott Nelson.

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk; Todd Wietzema, Street Supervisor; Scott Rosenberg, Park Supervisor; Kevin Black, Prairie View Grounds Superintendent (7:33 a.m.); Tammy Makram, Memorial Auditorium Manager (7:58 a.m.); Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering (8:20 a.m.).

Others present: None.

**PURCHASE OF SKID LOADER, PLANER AND BREAKER FOR STREET DEPARTMENT
APPROVED**

Todd Wietzema, Street Supervisor, told Council that he was requesting authorization to purchase a skid loader, planer and breaker for the street department as there have been some issues with the skid loader and the state contract price would be increasing after August 31st costing and additional \$2,188. There is a budget reserve for the skid loader, although the purchase was budgeted a year or two out.

The motion was made by Council Member Wood seconded by Council Member Graber and unanimously carried to authorize purchase of a new skid loader, planer and breaker for the Street Department.

PURCHASE OF SKID LOADER FOR USE IN PARK OPERATION APPROVED

Scott Rosenberg, Park Superintendent, told Council he wanted to move up the purchase of a larger skid loader to accommodate the additional snow removal / maintenance for the new paths with the completion of the Highway 60 project. The cost of the equipment with a Tier 4 engine will increase in January by \$5,000. Mr. Rosenberg said there was almost \$21,300 in the 2015 budget for the equipment, but purchasing now would save about \$6,400.

The motion was made by Council Member Wood, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to authorize purchase of a skid loader for use in the Park Department.

**GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION AND AUTHORIZATION TO INCLUDE FUNDING
FOR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM ROOF REPAIR AND AUTHORIZATION OF LETTER
OF INTENT TO COMPLETE REPAIR**

Street Department - Todd Wietzema, Street Supervisor, noted the 2015 budget reflects lower personnel costs as they've been doing more storm water related work and decreased their own street work. The other decrease was in miscellaneous repair and maintenance supplies - they've taken out

\$20,000. An increase of \$5,000 was included for additional sand and salt - \$10,000 of non-ERS money from the 2014 budget will be carried over to 2015 with an additional \$4,000 for a purchase of a new bucket in 2015.

Airport - Trees on airport property along Hwy. 59 that were cut had previously been just left to lay, however, complaints have been received. The lowest quote for cleaning it up is \$8,000. Brian Kolander, Finance Director, said he could check to see if that would be a reimbursable expense from the Airport grant. Total cost of the airport to the taxpayers is \$8,766 as farm land rental covers the rest of the expenses, along with the state aid.

Park - Scott Rosenberg, Park Superintendent, said the recreation fund is pretty status quo - Beach Nook worked out well. Budgeted for a new full time employee for the additional maintenance on completion of the Hwy. 60 project. Total cost plus benefits will be \$59,197. Miscellaneous repair and maintenance supplies increased from the 2014 projected amount of \$21,500 to \$34,000, which includes \$10,000 for maintenance of playground equipment, picnic tables, top dress wood mulch for play grounds, \$4,500 for benches, \$3,000 for slide replacements at Millard & Chautauqua Parks, \$4,000 for basketball poles and hoops at Pleasant Park, and \$9,000 to repaint the 10th Street benches. Total levy impact over 2014 is almost \$13,000. Money for the tree purchase program will be carried over from 2014 for 250-300 trees. CIP included \$10,000 for upgrading 8 sites to 50 amp to serve the newer campers that require larger service. They are at capacity for the water service coming into the campground and would have to push under County Road 10 to upgrade water services, which was estimated at \$10,000 ten years ago. All of the campsites are required to be within 300 feet of a restroom. ERS includes replacement of a mower at \$18,500 and a snow blower at \$7,700.

Prairie View Golf Course - Kevin Black, Greens Superintendent, said the proposed budget numbers for 2015 were about the same as 2014. The ERS includes replacement of a 1997 Cushman Truckster at \$13,000, which is all new money, adding vibrating rollers at \$10,000 (new money), and a groomer brush at \$4,500 (\$2,000 of new money). Due to safety concerns with the chemicals they spray, we're required by OSHA to have a shower and an eye wash. The CIP includes hooking up to rural water at \$16,500, and addition of a bathroom/eyewash-shower station. Prairie View does have a portable eye wash station, but has nothing for a full body wash. Mr. Black said he had seen a pressurized single use tank available for about \$1,600. Following discussion, Council determined to purchase one portable unit at \$1,600, but to have Mr. Black research the delivery time for a tank to determine if two should be ordered.

Craig Clark, City Administrator, noted that another \$15,000 will be added for the course due to declining revenues. The Board is looking at adding foot golf to the course to increase usage. Council Member Wood distributed information he had compiled, adding that we need to remember that the course is still park land for maintenance purposes, and it is also wetland.

Memorial Auditorium

Tammy Makram, Auditorium Manager, said the school contract is up to \$30,000, and as part of that the box office will now be handling all the ticketing or school events which will cut down on some of the confusion that has occurred in the past. The Friends have already paid back \$5,500 of the \$12,700 loan from the City, and are operating in the black. There were some issues with a leaky roof near the bathrooms, but it was under warranty and she convinced them to honor it and waive the fee. The \$11,547 rigging grant received last year from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council to install new rigging above the stage is the issue they are dealing with now. A structural engineer has now determined that there is a need for structural enhancements to support the new rigging. Based on the completion date of August 1st established in the grant, there was a danger of losing the money because of the delay in completing the project. Ms. Makram said she spoke to the Arts Council and explained that the delay in the project was due to issues in trying to get a structural engineer to assess the facility, and requested additional time. They granted an extension to May 27, 2015 but are requiring a letter of assurance from the City that we will follow through with the repair. Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering, said the rigging doesn't really even come in to play as the roof doesn't meet the snow load requirement. Council asked if the repair would qualify for use of the sales tax funds, to which Mr. Haffield said it would not as it wasn't included in the original plan.

Council Member Wood suggested taking the funds for the repair from the hospital impact dollars, to be replaced, and then establishing a reserve fund to cover our amenities.

The motion was made by Council Member Wood, seconded by Council Member Graber and unanimously carried to add \$35,000 in to the budget for structure repair of the Auditorium roof from the impact dollars.

Council requested that staff investigate and pitch the idea of using some of the remaining sales tax dollars for the project as it is regarding the structure.

The motion was made by Council Member Graber, seconded by Council Member Wood and unanimously carried to approve the letter to the Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council assuring them that we will follow through with the repair.

Brian Kolander said he would implement the changes as directed by Council prior to pre-certifying the levy at the regular City Council meeting on September 8th, and reminded Council that they can not increase the levy following the pre-certification but they can reduce it. He also noted they are trying to get some numbers from the County on inherent growth. Mr. Kolander asked Council where they wanted to be for certification. He also said he needed to get information on the refunds/reimbursements that were Safe & Sober funds, which may increase the levy.

Council Member Graber indicated that she would like to discuss an increase to the Auditorium Manager's salary, which is currently \$16 per hour. Council discussed the impact to the budget whether it be by salary increase or increase in hours, including insurance. Craig Clark, City

Administrator, noted that the previous Auditorium Manager received some funds from the Friends, who also paid outside vendors for some things, but they've not made that offer with Ms. Makram. Council Member Wood requested that staff bring back a proposal, and that he would like to be under 3% for pre-certification.

Council Member Kuhle concurred with that levy number but said he wants to look at contract maintenance again, as we seem to keep cutting street projects - we can't keep doing that.

Brian Kolander will make the changes and get the adjusted numbers out to Council - where did they want to be on September 8th? Consensus was 3%.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Wood, seconded by Council Member Graber and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk