

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Rick Von Holdt with the following Council Members present: Amy Woitalewicz, Mike Kuhle, Chris Kielblock, Dennis Weber. Amy Ernst (excused).

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Marilyn Cilengi, Assistant City Engineer; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Cristina Adame, Community Relations & Communications; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Oscar Martinez, Cable 3 TV; Chloe Farnsworth, *The Globe*; Ryan McGaughey, Radio Works; Eric Parrish.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

Mayor VonHoldt stated Items *F.4. Adoption of Policy Regarding the Rights and Duties of City Officials and Employees Related to Federal Immigration Law Enforcement* and *F.5. Accept Proposal for Geotechnical Services for Ice Arena Project* would be added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the noted additions.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-04 ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS – TOWER STREET & TENTH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION**

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing ordering improvement and preparation of plans and specifications.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to open the hearing.

Marilyn Cilengi, Assistant City Engineer, presented information on the proposed Tenth Avenue & Tower Street Reconstruction project.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony. None was received.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Woitalewicz and unanimously carried to close the hearing.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Woitalewicz and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda with the revised Annual City Council Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2026.

- Annual City Council Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2026
- Public Arts Commission Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2026
- Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling – Currie Town & Country Boosters, Inc. March 27, 2026, Worthington Event Center, 1447 Prairie Drive
- Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – FORWARD Worthington
- Bills Payable Totaling \$ 5,520,688.35

**SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO VACATE OF SEGMENT OF TOWER STREET WITHIN THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON, NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Pursuant to published notice this is the time and date set for the second reading of a proposed ordinance to vacate a segment of Tower Street within the City of Worthington, Nobles County, Minnesota.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to give a second reading to the proposed ordinance.

**APPROVED ICE ARENA SELECTION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK**

In early 2025, the City issued a Construction Manager at Risk (CMaR) Request for Statements of Qualifications for the Ice Arena Project. Nine submissions were received. A selection committee consisting of representatives from the City of Worthington, Worthington Independent School District 518, and the Worthington Hockey Association reviewed, scored, and ranked the submissions.

On January 12, 2026, the Ice Arena Selection Committee interviewed the two highest-ranked firms. The committee recommends Council authorize staff to proceed with discussions with Knutson Construction, LLC, and HTG Architects for initial programming, design, and project cost estimating.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and

unanimously carried to approve staff to proceed with discussions with Knutson Construction, LLC and HTG Architects for initial programming, design, and project estimates.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-05 ADOPTED ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Mr. Robinson reported FEMA Region V has approved the Nobles County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Adoption of the plan allows the City to remain eligible for future FEMA hazard mitigation funding programs, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Post-Fire, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance, and the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-05

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2025 NOBLES COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-06 ADOPTED REGARDING THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES RELATED TO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Staff requested clarification from the City Attorney regarding the rights and duties of City officials and employees related to federal immigration law enforcement, specifically concerning access to City-owned facilities and property. The attached policy provides guidance on the following matters:

- Federal authorities may enter publicly accessible areas of City-owned property without a warrant,
- City employees, including law enforcement officers, are not required to assist federal agents in locating individuals absent a judicial warrant,
- City consents to allow federal agents access to non-public areas; however, such consent may be revoked, at which time a judicial warrant would be required for access. The City Administrator or a department head may revoke consent if deemed necessary for public health, safety, or welfare.
- City employees may not grant access to non-public data, including private or confidential data on individuals, absent a judicial warrant.
- City employees shall not obstruct or interfere with federal immigration enforcement activities, including but not limited to:

- Hiding customers or employees,
- Warn anyone of an impending investigation
- Assist anyone in evading a search
- Provide false information
- Destroy documents, and
- Hide evidence.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to adopt the policy and following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-06

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES RELATED TO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW ENFORCEMENT**

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**APPROVED PROPOSAL FOR GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES FOR ICE ARENA PROJECT**

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, reported staff requested a proposal from American Engineering Testing, Inc. to conduct soil borings for the Ice Arena project. The proposed scope of work includes six (6) soil borings within the proposed building footprint and three (3) soil borings within the proposed parking lot areas. The total cost for these services is \$12,800.00.

Soil borings are a critical first step in the design process for the new Ice Arena, as they provide essential information regarding subsurface conditions and help identify any potential soil corrections that may be required prior to construction.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Woitalewicz and unanimously carried to authorize staff to execute the proposal with American Engineering Testing, Inc.

**APPROVED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SHORT ELLIOT HENDRICKSON FOR CENTENNIAL PARK LIFT STATION REHABILITATION**

Ms. Cilengi reported that at the December 22, 2025, City Council meeting, the Council awarded the contract for the Centennial Park Lift Station Rehabilitation Project. Due to the specialized nature of the project, which includes building rehabilitation components not typically performed by City staff, and the absence of in-house personnel with experience in this type of work, consulting engineering services are required.

Staff has consulted with Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) to provide construction supervision services for the Centennial Park Lift Station Rehabilitation Project, in an amount not to exceed \$35,357.00.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the agreement with SEH in an amount not to exceed \$35,357.00.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Rick Von Holdt – No report.

Council Member Ernst – No report.

Council Member Weber - No report.

Council Member Woitalewicz – Reported YMCA Gala dinner is scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Kuhle – No report.

Council Member Kielblock – No report.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Robinson reported the city has received a purchase agreement for an executive lot in Glenwood Heights.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC  
City Clerk