

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2025**

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: Chris Kielblock, Larry Janssen, Mike Kuhle, Dennis Weber, Amy Ernst.

Staff present: Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Troy Appel, Public Safety Director; Jake Walker, Police Detective; K-9 Winston; Cristina Adame, Community Relations & Communications; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Sam Martin, The Globe; Travis Winters, Bolton & Menk; Chris Spidel, Roger Baschke, David Lee, Mabel Lee.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

The Mayor stated *Item I. 1. 2025 Private Docks on Public Property* would be removed from the agenda.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01-02 ADOPTED ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

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

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

Travis Winters gave a presentation on the proposed project and improvements that are planned along with the approximate timeline for the reconstruction project.

Roger Baschke, Viking Car Credit, asked about the assessments as his business has three sides that abut the street. Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, said, according to state statute, it does not allow three sides to be assessed only up to two are allowed. He noted the City will also have to acquire a right of way.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01-02

A RESOLUTION ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01-03 ADOPTED ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing on ordering improvement 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.

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, gave a presentation on the proposed project, outlining the timeline and projected assessments.

The Mayor asked if anyone had any testimony, none was received.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01-03

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 Keilblock, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- City Council Meeting Minutes of December 23, 2024
- Water & Light Commission Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2025
- Municipal Liquor Store Income Statement for the period of January 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024
- Olson Park Statement of Revenues & Expenditures - Budget and Actual for the period of January 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024
- Fieldhouse Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Budget and Actual for the period of January 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024
- Annual Appointments
- Appointment of City Attorney
- Application for Exemption from Lawful Gambling - Whitetails Unlimited MN Southwest Deer Camp
- 2025 License Renewal - Circle K
- Bills Payable Totaling \$1,257,198.73

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01-04 ADOPTED AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF K-9 WINSTON TO PET STATUS**

Troy Appel, Public Safety Director, said the Worthington Police Department has set the official date for K-9 Winston's retirement for January 13, 2025.

Mr. Appel said K-9 Winston started his career with WPD in 2017 partnering with Detective Jake Walker. Together they have displayed professionalism and dedication to Worthington and have been instrumental in keeping the City safe. Throughout Winston's career he was deployed over 120 times, performed dozens of public demos, and located large quantities of controlled substances including over 20 pounds of methamphetamine.

Staff requested Winston be decommissioned as City property, becoming the family pet of Jake Walker. Mr. Walker signed an agreement that Winston will not be used for law enforcement purposes on or after January 13, 2025.

Council thanked Jake and K-9 Winston and wished them well.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01-03

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF K-9, WINSTON, TO PET STATUS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM**

Section 2.02 of the Worthington City Charter states that at the Annual Meeting the City Council shall, from its number and by ballot, elect a Mayor Pro Tem who shall preside over the meetings of the City Council during the absence of the Mayor from the City, or upon the inability of the Mayor, from any cause, to discharge the duties of the office.

Following distribution of ballots and voting, the following votes were cast:

Council Member Kielblock - 0  
Council Member Kuhle - 2  
Council Member Weber - 0  
Council Member Ernst - 3

Following vote tabulation by the Clerk, a motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve Council Member Ernst as Mayor Pro Tem for 2025.

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS (I.U.O.E.) LOCAL #49,  
CONTRACT APPROVE**

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said I.U.O.E. Local #49, which represents non-salaried employees in the Water, Wastewater, Public Works departments and the Engineering Technicians expired on December 31, 2024.

Administrative staff participated in two in-person negotiating sessions with I.U.O.E. representatives and have reached an agreement for a three-year contract with a 5.0% cost-of-living adjustment effective January 1, 2025, a 4.0% cost-of-living adjustment effective January 1, 2026, and a 4.0% cost-of-living adjustment effective January 1, 2027.

The agreement includes amendments to the vacation schedule, amendments to the Extended Sick Leave conversion schedule and fitness facility reimbursement. In addition, the agreement includes a provision to meet and confer regarding Minnesota Paid Leave at a future date prior to its implementation scheduled for January 1, 2026.

The terms of the agreement have been presented to the Compensation Committee, with the committee recommending approval of the proposed terms.

The agreement was approved at the January 6, 2025 Water and Light Commission meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the terms of the 2025 - 2027 agreements with IUOE Local #49.

**AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS APPROVED**

Mr. Robinson said at the October 14, 2024 City Council meeting, Council approved an agreement with the firm of Bolton and Menk to do design work for a 150'x 50, 3 bay hangar unit at the Worthington Municipal Airport.

The plans have been completed and Bolton and Menk would like Council's authorization to advertise for bids. The proposed timeline is as follows:

- January 13th, 2025 Authorize bids
- February 5th, 2025 Open bids
- February 24th, 2025 Bid Recommendation

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to authorize staff to solicit bids for the Airport Hangar project.

#### **BUDGET AMENDMENT TO PURCHASE PUBLIC WORKS TRUCKS APPROVED**

Mr. Robinson said staff requested council's approval to do a 2025 budget amendment to purchase a new Ford F350 1 Ton truck. The type of truck that fits the Park's Department needs will need to have a single cab, long wheelbase, and dual tires. These vehicles have been hard to find in the past, however, staff has located a truck that meets all of our needs and would like to purchase the chassis portion at this time.

The current 2025 ERS budget has a balance of \$53,666.00. The 2011 truck was initially planned to be replaced in 2026. The price quoted for the new 1 Ton chassis is \$51,287 plus tax. Staff's intent is to purchase the new chassis in the 2025 budget and the box, hoist, and lift in the 2026 budget.

Council Member Ernst asked what the additional cost would be for the box, hoist, and lift. She said it doesn't make sense to have a truck that you cannot use. Mr. Robinson said those items would add approximately an additional cost of \$27,188.00. He also noted that staff is unsure at this time if the truck will already have running boards and the back-up alarm or if that would need to be added and that cost would be approximately another \$1,000.00. The total amount for a fully outfitted truck would be approximately \$81,000.00. Council Members agreed it makes more sense to buy the completed truck, being able to use it and payback the ERS budget.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to allow staff to amend the 2025 budget for the purchase of the new fully equipped one ton truck.

#### **APPROVED REVISED TASK ORDER 31 BOLTON AND MENK TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SERVICE FOR EAST FLOWER LANE EXTENSION**

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, said Council passed a resolution to order a feasibility report on the East Flower Lane Extension project on December 23, 2024.

Bolton and Menk's Task Order number 31, provides preliminary engineering service which includes topographic survey, cost estimate, and final design of the regional storm water pond. The task order is not to exceed \$65,000.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve Task Order 31.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01-05 ADOPTED AMENDING ZONING APPLICATION FEES, SANITARY SEWER CONNECTION PERMIT FEES, AND ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR A MINOR SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS**

Matt Selof, Community Development Director, said in the Worthington City Code Sections 155.221 and 155.224 states it will grant the power to establish a fee schedule for work associated with Chapter 155. This covers applications for things like rezonings, conditional use permits, plats, variances, appeals, vacating easements, and other items. Current Fees are as follows:

**Zoning Application Fees**

Preliminary Plat - \$150  
Rezoning - \$200  
Zoning Text Change - \$200  
Conditional Use Permit - \$200  
Vacation of Public Way - \$75  
Planned Unit Development - \$350

Amended PUD - \$150  
Variance - \$200  
Administrative Appeal - \$30  
Appeal (Variance Decision Appeal) - \$30  
Vacate Non-Platted Easement - \$25  
Vacate Platted Easement - \$100

Mr. Selof explained the fees cover staff time to review applications, work with the applicant, site inspections, public hearing notices, and other work associated with the requested. All of the applications above require approval by the Planning Commission and/or City Council. Easement vacations require action by the Water and Light Commission. The fees have not been changed for many years. To ensure the costs associated with the applications is adequately covered, staff is proposing the fees be increased to the following amounts:

Preliminary Plat - \$500  
Rezoning - \$400  
Zoning Text Change - \$400  
Conditional Use Permit - \$350

Vacation of Public Way - \$600

Planned Unit Development - \$1000

Amended PUD - \$300

Variance - \$350

Administrative Appeal - \$200

Appeal (Variance Denial Appeal) - \$200

Vacate Easement - \$200 (combine non-platted and platted easement vacation requests)

In addition to the increases, staff is proposing to add a few for approval of minor subdivisions. He explained currently, no fee is charged for the review and approval despite those requests often taking considerable time to review and work with the applicant. Staff is proposing that fee be set at \$100.00.

### **Sanitary Connection Permit Fees**

He also addressed Worthington City Code Chapter 51 which establishes policies for sanitary sewer connections. The section requires inspections be made to new sewer main connections to ensure the connections meet the applicable standards. Permits are issued for new connections, approved by the City Engineer's office, with the work inspected by the City's building inspectors. The current fee associated with this permit is \$10 and was set to help cover the inspection time and other costs associated with the permit. The nominal fee does not adequately cover the costs associated with inspecting the work, processing the permit, and any follow up that needs to be done so staff is proposing the fee be increased to \$50.

He noted while there are a lot of differences with how applications are structured and how fees are determined between cities the proposed increases are generally aligned with other cities.

Council Member Ernst said the fee increases seem to be quite aggressive. Council Member Kuhle stated he feels that while the fee increases are substantial, the fees should have been increased periodically over the years.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01-05

A RESOLUTION AMENDING ZONING APPLICATION FEES, SANITARY SEWER CONNECTION PERMIT FEES, AND ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR A MINOR SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

**ORDINANCE NO.1210 EXTENDING THE CORPORATE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON TO INCLUDE 70.00 ACRES OF UNPLATTED LAND ABUTTING THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON AND OWNED BY BEDOFRD INDUSTRIES, INC.**

Mr. Selof said an ordinance annexing 70 acres of land located north of Interstate 90 (parcel 20-0093-750) was approved by Council on October 14, 2024. After it was submitted to the State it was brought to our attention that they are requiring the additional language in the ordinance pertaining to description of property prior to final approval of the annexation.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1210**

**AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE CORPORATE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON TO INCLUDE 70.00 ACRES OF UNPLATTED LAND ABUTTING THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON AND OWNED BY BEDFORD INDUSTRIES, INC.**

(Refer to Ordinance File for complete copy of Ordinance)

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Rick Von Holdt - Attended a Hazard Mitigation meeting via zoom.

Council Member Janssen - No report.

Council Member Ernst - No report.

Council Member Weber - No report.

Council Member Kielblock - Attended the Hazard Mitigation meeting via zoom. Attended the Karen Community New Year Celebration, they recognized Todd Wietzema and the Public Works staff for their cooperation and help when they hold events.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Robinson reminded Council of the Special City Council meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 4:00 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC  
City Clerk