

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 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; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Troy Appel, Public Safety Director; Cristina Adame, Community Relations & Communications; Trent DeGroot, Fire Chief; Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Sam Martin, The Globe; Bryon Spittle, Ryan Loomans, Brenda Hurlbut, Melissa DeGroot, Barb Denno, Tracie Luinenburg, Justin Luinenburg, Pat Shorter.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES

A motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

HELD PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02-08 ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS - MURRAY AVENUE

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

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

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, gave a presentation on the project objectives of the street improvement project. The proposed improvement will include sanitary sewer services, base reconstruction, sidewalk, driveway, and permanent pavement surface. The estimated cost summary is as follows:

Project Cost	\$807,000.00
Total Assessable Cost	\$478,000.00
Assessable Rate	\$235.15/LF
City Cost	\$328,386.64

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony.

Barbara Denno, 1615 Murray Avenue, asked if the sidewalks would be replaced with concrete or bituminous. Mr. Goo said concrete will be used to replace the sidewalks.

Ryan Loomans, 1512 Murray Avenue, said the street was torn up last year as well due to the flooding. He said he doesn't feel the homeowner should have to pay for any of the street replacement. Mr. Goo said the homeowner will always incur assessments with a total street reconstruction.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02-08

A RESOLUTION ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

HELD PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02-09 ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS SIXTH AVENUE

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

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

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, gave a presentation on the project objectives of the street improvement project. The proposed improvement will include water main, sanitary sewer main, sanitary sewer services, base reconstruction, curb and gutter, sidewalk, driveway, and permanent pavement surface. The estimated cost summary is as follows:

Project Cost	\$670,000.00
Total Assessable Cost	\$480,000.00
Assessable Rate	\$228.30/LF
City Cost	\$184,000.00

Mr. Goo noted that this reconstruction is a two-year project. The first part of the project will be done this year and then the ground needs to settle before it can be finished in 2026.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony.

Brenda Hurlbut, 1314 Sixth Avenue, said her home faces Sixth Avenue but her garage is in the alley. She also asked if the sidewalks in front of her home were still in good shape, would they need to be replaced? Mr. Goo said the driveway approach will be replaced going into the alley and all of the sidewalk will be replaced because it is much easier to replace it all instead of piecing it in and trying to line it up correctly.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02-09

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 Weber and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025
- Special City Council Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2025
- Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2024
- Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2024
- Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2024
- Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2024
- Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2024
- Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes of December 30, 2024
- Prairie Justice Center Joint Operations Committee Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2024
- Worthington Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2024
- Worthington Public Arts Commission Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2024
- Application for Exemption from Lawful Gambling - YMCA

- Bills Payable Totaling \$949,905.58

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02-10 ADOPTED ACCEPTING A DONATION OF FUNDS

Troy Appel, Public Safety Director, said the Bedford Employee Fundraising Group donated \$250 to the Worthington Police Department. The donation will be used to contribute to the WPD K9 program.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02-10

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION OF FUNDS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE XI OF THE CITY CODE 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 amend Title XI of the City Code of Worthington, Nobles county, Minnesota.

A complete copy of the ordinance was provided in your January 27, 2025 Council Agenda. Council Member Kuhle asked if there had been any comments, Mindy Eggers, City Clerk, replied there had not been any to date.

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

APPOINTMENT OF WORTHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE CHIEF APPROVED

Ms. Eggers said after serving the residents of Worthington as a firefighter for more than 27 years, and as Chief for the past four years, Pat Shorter retired effective February 3, 2025.

The Personnel Policy for Firefighters and Standard Operating Guidelines for the Worthington Fire Department state that City Council shall appoint a person fully qualified to serve as the Fire Chief, taking into account the recommendation of the Fire Department personnel.

Fire Department members met on January 28, 2025 and have forwarded their recommendation to appoint Trent DeGroot as Chief. Mr. DeGroot joined the department in 2009 and has served as the 1st Assistant Chief for the past four years.

The Chief has general supervision of the department at all times and has control over all apparatus, equipment and supplies and command over all persons who are employees of the department. The Chief reports to the City Administrator.

Council Member Kuhle thanked Pat Shorter and congratulated Trent DeGroot.

Trent DeGroot said he appreciated the opportunity to serve the residents of Worthington in the capacity of Chief. He said with the current and upcoming retirements there will be approximately 10-11 spots to fill.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Janssen and unanimously carried to approve Trent DeGroot as the new Fire Chief.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT - ICE ARENA REMODEL FEASIBILITY STUDY APPROVED

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, said at the Council work session on January 25, 2025, Council requested staff to have a feasibility report and cost estimate done for remodeling the existing ice arena.

Staff met with and retained HTG Architects of Hopkins, MN once again to provide an estimate for an extensive remodel estimate for the current facility. HTG has designed new and renovated ice arenas throughout the country and has significant experience in Minnesota.

The proposed scope of work will include:

- Developing site plans and floor plans,
- Preparing exterior elevations,
- Preparing Cost estimates, and
- Establishing the project schedule.

The fee to perform this phase of work is a lump sum of \$3,400.00 plus expenses.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to retain HTG Architects and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the agreement.

BID RECOMMENDATION FOR AIRPORT HANGAR PROJECT APPROVED

Mr. Wietzema said bids were opened on February 5, 2025 for the proposed 3 bay hangar project at the airport. One base bid was received for the 3 bay hangar building and an alternate 1 for roof and wall insulation on the 3 bay hangar. Bid Alternate 2 was a deduct for only a 2 bay hangar and

Alternate 3 was to insulate the 2 bay hangar. These were included in case the base bids came in over the amount of FAA funding possible.

There was only one bid received and it is as follows:

The Base Bid:

- Everstrong Construction, Inc \$884,449.79

Alternate 1 Bid:

- Everstrong Construction, Inc \$59,162.30

Alternate 2 Deduct: \$-149,994.55

Alternate 3: \$43,585.45

The Engineers estimate for this 3 bay hangar project was \$925,000.00 and the Alternate 1 estimate was \$75,000.00. The bid tab and the consultant letter of recommendation was included in the packet. The funding sources for the base bid are as follows:

FAA	95%
State of Minnesota	2.5%
Local funding	2.5%

The Alternate 1 would be completely funded locally and would be taken out of airport reserves. The award of the bid would be contingent on receiving the FAA grant.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to accept the Base Bid and Alternate 1 from Everstrong Construction, Inc., contingent on securing FAA funding to build a 3 Bay hangar at the Airport.

APPROVED PLANS FOR MILL AND OVERLAY IN CHERRY POINT NEIGHBORHOOD

Mr. Goo said staff has prepared plans and specifications for the 2025 mill and overlay project in the Cherry Point neighborhood. The project would include improvements to Liberty Drive, Pershing Boulevard, Betty Avenue, Godfrey Street, Leon Avenue, and Grandview Avenue. West Lake Avenue is not included in this project.

Bids will be received on March 5, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. and considered for award at the March 10, 2025, Council Meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Janssen and unanimously carried to approve the plans and specifications and authorize staff to advertise for bids.

**AMENDMENT OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH AE2S FOR COUNTY DITCH 12
PHASE 2 APPROVED**

Mr. Goo explained the City of Worthington has an existing agreement with AE2S, an engineering consulting firm, to provide engineering services, including assistance in drafting funding applications for the County Ditch 12 Phase 2 project. AE2S has successfully helped secure multiple funding opportunities and facilitated the acquisition of land for the retention ponds near Diagonal Road.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) announced a new funding opportunity specifically for the construction of the stormwater resilience. While AE2S has been instrumental in securing past funding, the original contract amount may not be sufficient to support the additional work required for this new application. So AE2S can effectively assist in pursuing the new funding opportunity, an amendment is being proposed for the existing agreement. The amendment would increase the contract budget by \$10,000, bringing the total amount to not exceed \$30,000.

A motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the contract amendment to maximize funding opportunities for the County Ditch 12 Phase 2 project.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Rick Von Holdt - No report.

Council Member Janssen - No report.

Council Member Ernst - No report.

Council Member Weber - No report.

Council Member Kuhle - Attended an HRA Board Meeting and elected Salvador Adame as the new Chairman. There have been sixteen inquiries on the sale of Prairie Acres Apartment building.

Council Member Kielblock - Attended the Fire Department meeting, congratulated Pat Shorter on his retirement and congratulated Trent DeGroot on his appointment to Fire Chief.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk