

City of Goodview
City Council Minutes
November 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jack Weimerskirch at 5:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Upon Roll Call: Mayor J.P. Weimerskirch, and Councilmembers Dick Ledebuhr, Steve Baumgart, and Sandy Erdman were present. Councilmember Charlie Andring was absent.

City Staff Present: City Administrator Dan Matejka, Police Chief Kent Russell, Director of Public Works Greg Volkart, First Responders Director Dave Fruth, Maintenance II worker Dave Schultz and Clerk-Typist Nancy Gaulke.

Consent Agenda: Councilmember Erdman moved and Councilmember Baumgart seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The agenda included the minutes of the November 2, 2009 regular meeting of the Goodview City Council, and the November, 2009 claims (reviewed by Councilmembers Baumgart and Erdman). The claims totaled \$606,408.16 for the following operating funds:

General Fund	\$105,917.34
Revolving Projects Fund	414,883.77
Water Service Fund	19,600.41
Sewer Service Fund	66,006.64

All voted aye, and the motion carried.

There were no community comments or input.

Senator Steve Murphy was in attendance to discuss the State's deficit and to address Council concerns about the effect that deficit will have on the City. The City Administrator explained that LGA is approximately 10% of the City's revenue budget and any funds received from LGA would be used to increase the City's fund balance and/or to decrease the tax levy. The Senator expressed his concern that Governor Pawlenty will use his unallotment authority again in December of this year to cut LGA. He explained the State deficit will be in the billions and the next session will be very challenging. Mayor Weimerskirch emphasized the importance of bipartisanship and the need for all elected officials to work together for the good of the constituents. Senator Murphy agreed that a bipartisan effort is needed to balance the budget and all spending needs to be looked at and there should be no sacred cows. The City Administrator questioned the Governor's proposed constitutional amendment concerning budgeting. The concept of the amendment is the maximum revenues which could be budgeted would be based upon the revenues of the previous year. The Senator cited examples of other states that have tried similar programs and have failed and stated the proposed amendment will not happen in Minnesota. The Administrator also noted the League of Minnesota Cities suggested Goodview, La Crescent, Red Wing, Lewiston, and Rushford band together to attempt to

receive some state funding for the water treatment plants they were required to build to remove radium due to an unfunded federal mandate. The Senator replied he would be willing to further investigate the possibility. He mentioned there may be a possibility of turning the City's PFA loan into a grant and cited a Red Wing sewer project as a precedent. Mayor Weimerskirch strongly expressed his displeasure with our federal officials for passing a bill promising \$3 million of funding for our water treatment plant and then not funding the bill. He stated what is being done in Washington is unethical and lacks any degree of integrity. Councilmember Erdman asked the Senator about a possible lawsuit against the Governor for the unallotment of LGA which some groups claim is an inappropriate use of the law. The Administrator noted the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities will be addressing the issue later this week and he will report back to the Council about their decision. The Senator believes a lawsuit would be very drawn out and expensive and probably would not be successful.

Winona County Commissioner Dwayne Voegeli was present to answer Council questions about several Winona County projects. Commissioner Voegeli explained the expansion of the Winona County Government Center is being paid for from reserves that have been set aside for that purpose. He further explained that combining some departments and positions will end up saving the County money within the next two to three years. In response to questions from the Council and Police Chief Russell regarding the 800 MHz radio upgrade project, Mr. Voegeli stated the County Administrator will recommend the upgrade be paid for by a bond issuance and the cities will then reimburse the County over time. This issue will be brought before the County Board in the summer of 2010. There still are many uncertainties about what the project will cost, what compatibility issues might arise with other jurisdictions, and whether the entire County will have full radio coverage. Councilmember Ledebuhr questioned the condition of the Winona County jail and how the County would finance a state mandated replacement of the jail if it should occur. Commissioner Voegeli noted Winona County still has some fund reserves and also is still well below the legal debt ratio so a bond issue would not be a problem if necessary.

Councilmember Ledebuhr asked about the status of the reimbursement to the two citizens in WE Valley who had damage to plumbing fixtures due to the new water treatment plant. It was suggested that perhaps the City could pay the two claims and deduct the amount off the final payment to the contractor. Public Works Director Greg Volkart indicated he would speak with the City Engineer regarding the issue and report back to the Council. Councilmember Baumgart noted Officer Travis Volkman was in attendance at the Winona State football game on November 7th honoring local emergency responders. Mayor Weimerskirch indicated he attended the flag raising ceremony at Goodview Elementary School in honor of Veterans Day.

There were no questions on the Fire Department meeting minutes.

The Council reviewed the Building Permit Report for October 2009.

The Council discussed the Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program. The City Administrator and the Director of Public Works indicated City staff has some concerns about the time and cost requirements from the City for the long-term maintenance and upkeep of the area. At this time, the Council recommends the City not

enter into the agreement for the project. Mayor Weimerskirch and Councilmember Baumgart offered to meet with Ms. Joyce Stellick and discuss the matter with her.

Mayor Weimerskirch indicated he delivered the American Education Week Proclamation to Goodview School and it was read over the public address system this morning.

Councilmember Ledebuhr moved and Councilmember Baumgart seconded to approve Resolution No. 0838, A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE DONATION FROM THE GOODVIEW ACTIVITY GROUP. All voted aye and the Resolution was declared adopted.

Councilmember Erdman moved and Councilmember Baumgart seconded to approve Pay Estimate #10 for the 2008 Utility & Street Improvement Project: Saehler-Anderson subdivision in the amount of \$87,997.27 including change orders #6 and #7. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Councilmember Ledebuhr moved and Councilmember Baumgart seconded to approve Pay Estimate #8 for the 2008-B Utility & Street Improvement Project: Gunderson & Hub-Mill subdivisions in the amount of \$207,482.56 including change orders #16 and #17. All voted aye and the motion carried. Councilmember Ledebuhr indicated he would like estimated completion dates and the balance due for both projects. The Administrator will report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Councilmember Ledebuhr moved and Councilmember Erdman seconded to approve RESOLUTION NO. 0839, A RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION IN SUPPORT OF THE MINNESOTA STATE PATROL GRANT PROGRAMS. All voted aye and the Resolution was declared adopted.

The City Administrator asked for Council approval to close the City Government Center Christmas Eve Day, December 24th. All City staff will be required to use vacation or comp time. The Council approved the request.

The City Administrator informed the Council it has been brought to his attention the furniture in The Bar is in bad condition. An estimate of approximately \$9,000 was received to replace the chairs, bar stools, and some of the tables. The Council discussed the age of the furniture and the importance of keeping The Bar open and in good operating condition. After some discussion, the consensus of the Council is to have the Director of Public Works research the cost of just replacing the chairs and stools at this time.

Councilmember Ledebuhr moved and Councilmember Baumgart seconded to adjourn. All voted aye, motion carried.

Adjournment at 6:37 p.m.

NOTE: The next regular meeting of the Goodview City Council will be on Monday, December 7, 2009 at **6:00 p.m.** at Goodview City Hall.

