

City of Goodview  
City Council Minutes  
September 1, 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, Charlie Andring, and Sandy Erdman were present.  
Councilmember Steve Baumgart was absent.

City Staff Present: City Administrator Dan Matejka, Director of Public Works Greg Volkart, Police Chief Kent Russell, Fire Chief Rick Bambenek, Asst. Fire Chief Todd Ives, Maintenance II worker Dave Schultz, and Maintenance I worker Aaron Lofgren.

Consent Agenda: Councilmember Erdman moved and Councilmember Andring seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The agenda included the minutes of the August 17, 2009 regular meeting of the Goodview City Council. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

Ms. Joyce Stellick (324 Keller Avenue), Saehler Subdivision Coordinator, presented to the Council various pieces of information on a proposed Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership between the residents of the Saehler Subdivision, the City of Goodview, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT). The residents are proposing the creation of a "Prairie Garden" (including trees, native grasses and flowers) in a flat area bordered by Highway 61, Harry's Lane, and Saehler Drive in the subdivision. This area, which is about one acre in size, is currently owned by the State with the exception of the roadside ditches which is City property. The roadside program is administered by MNDOT with them providing technical and financial assistance. To qualify for the program, the residents of the Saehler Subdivision must be sponsored by a unit of government such as the City of Goodview. As Ms. Stellick indicated, the residents would install and maintain the garden with direction from MNDOT, as indicated by a petition of signatures of those residents in favor of the project. She also pointed out she has talked with Home and Community Options (a resident of the subdivision) and they would help maintain the garden as part of a community service project for their clients. Along with MNDOT, Ms. Stellick indicated she also spoke with other agencies such as the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District and the DNR, and they also believe it is a very viable project. The Director of Public Works indicated that without this project the area would be seeded as part of the water and sewer project. He did express his apprehension of the project, pointing to what potentially could happen to the area once the initial interest wears off – the City would end up maintaining the area, something he doesn't want to see. The Mayor concurred with Mr. Volkart stating the maintaining of the area is a huge commitment for those involved. The City Administrator pointed out to the Council and Ms. Stellick the fact the City doesn't have any extra funds, or time, to help create but especially to maintain the area if needed.

It was determined to have Mr. Matejka review the application for the program, and report back to the Council at their next meeting on Tuesday, September 8.

Councilmember Ledebuhr questioned Mr. Volkart about the compaction test for the reconstruction of County 32. Mr. Volkart pointed out another test on the road should be done this week. The City Administrator read a few comments from Councilmember Baumgart praising the Maintenance, Police, and Fire Departments for all they did during Goodview Days.

Mayor Weimerskirch questioned how often the City will have to test the generators for the Lake Outlet project, of which he was told probably monthly during the summer months. He also asked if the Police, Fire, and Street Departments had been able to get together to discuss the parking issues in Woodhaven and Saehler due to narrow streets. The Police Chief indicated they haven't met, but there certainly are issues in both subdivisions. Councilmember Erdman commended the Police Department on quickly solving the burglary at a Goodview residence in the past week. She also asked if the City was going to hold an Open House for the Water Treatment Plants for the public to view and learn about them, of which she was told yes but probably not until early October. Chief Russell informed the Council he will begin to meet every Tuesday with both the Winona Daily News and Hiawatha Broadband Communications (HBC) to give them a Police report similar to what other communities do. He also praised Officer Lehnertz for organizing the Night Out picnic in the Gunderson subdivision.

The Building Permit report for July, 2009 was reviewed by the Council.

The Maintenance Department on-call schedule for September 2009 was reviewed.

Councilmember Andring moved and Councilmember Ledebuhr seconded to approve the Proclamation designating the week of September 17 through 23, 2009 as Constitution Week. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

The City Administrator reviewed the "proposed" 2010 revenue and expenditure budgets for both the General and Debt Service funds. The proposed budget results in a tax rate increase of approximately one-half of one percent, and a levy increase of slightly less than six percent. Mayor Weimerskirch expressed his desire to see no increase in the tax rate, stating it is the Council's responsibility and commitment to the property owners in the City to drive the tax rate lower. Mr. Matejka said to get to that point the City would need to trim about \$16,000 from the proposed budget. Mr. Matejka also presented an alternative to the proposed budget relating to Capital equipment purchases in the form of the City potentially issuing a 10 year Capital Equipment Bond to finance such expenditures. This bond would generate a decrease in the tax rate for the City for 2010, plus a decrease in the proposed levy from a six percent increase to an increase of approximately 2.3 percent. He went on to say he is still working with Ehlers and Associates (the City's financial consultants) to potentially combine this equipment bond with a re-finance of the 2001 Improvement Bond, thus saving the City money in the form of less interest payments. The entire Council was in favor of exploring this concept, and directed the City Administrator to come back to them at the next meeting with Draft #2 of the proposed budget with these concepts in place.

Councilmember Ledebuhr moved and Councilmember Erdman seconded that RESOLUTION NO. 0831, A PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION – POLICE OFFICERS DECLARATION RESOLUTION, be adopted. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

Councilmember Erdman moved and Councilmember Andring seconded to adjourn. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

Adjournment at 6:40 p.m.

NOTE: The next regular meeting of the Goodview City Council will on **Tuesday**, September 8, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at Goodview City Hall.