

City of Goodview
City Council Minutes
January 5, 2009

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The first order of business was to have the City Administrator, Dan Matejka, swear in J.P. Weimerskirch as Mayor. Once completed, the Mayor swore in Mr. Charlie Andring, Mr. Steve Baumgart, and Ms. Sandy Erdman to their respective City Councilmember positions.

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

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

Senator Steve Murphy addressed the Council concerning the upcoming legislative session. The Senator clarified that the formula used by the Governor at the end of 2008 to unallot millions of Local Government Aid (LGA) and Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) dollars was a decision of the State Auditor and the Governor himself. For the most part, the legislature didn't have much to say about it. He pointed out his belief the LGA formula, and others, need to change because they are unfair to Greater Minnesota. In referencing what might happen in the next biennium, he stressed all areas of the budget will be cut (at least 50% for LGA), because the State's financial situation is more dire than originally expected with a deficit potentially pushing \$6 billion instead of the \$4.8 billion originally thought and no monies in any of the State's rainy day funds. He also wants to make sure the cuts are done fairly from program to program, and that all programs – no matter the size – need to be looked at for savings including personnel (aids and staff) cuts in the legislature. Also, he indicated it is his belief how government is ran needs to change especially at the legislative level. The Senator also stated some programs, like Pay for Performance for teachers, should be eliminated if it has been proven not to work. Mayor Weimerskirch asked if the State should continue to fund K-12 education, to which the Senator responded yes to some extent. However, he did say Higher Education should be spared as much as possible, because of the great payback it has for the State of Minnesota. Senator Murphy did express he believes if there are significant cuts to LGA, the concept of levy limits needs to be abolished – a concept he has always been opposed to. As far as potential revenue enhancements, the Senator stated there really is no chance for a State run casino being created, but did say the possibility of putting slot machines in bars may have a chance to pass during this session.

He also strongly opposes any form of administrative citations as a form of revenue, because they are unconstitutional in his mind.

Ms. Christina Peterson and Mr. Chad Schuman of the engineering firm Yaggy Colby gave the Council an update on the various projects they are overseeing for the City. First of all, concerning the Safe Routes to School Grant, the City should hear sometime in March, 2009 whether the application was successful or not. Project number two is the bank stabilization project in the Gunderson sub-division. This is a grant through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for \$75,000. Due to the weather, the contractor hasn't gotten as far as liked, but it is progressing. The final project they wanted to update the Council on is the grant (approximately \$1.2 million) provided by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This grant the City received gives Yaggy Colby the authorization to prepare preliminary designs and analysis of two areas; (1) to potentially construct a dike between Minnesota City and Goodview, and (2) to create an outlet for Lake Goodview. The sole purpose of both these issues is to try to minimize the impact on the City of Goodview if another flood like that of August, 2007 happens again. The deadline to expend these funds is June 30, 2009; however, the City has asked both Senator Murphy and Representative Draskowski to author a bill to their respective chambers to get an extension of at least six months to complete the projects. On number one it was determined that anything done now over-and-above everything that has already been done in Minnesota City by either MNDOT or the railroad would be overkill – not to mention very expensive. For the creation of an outlet for Lake Goodview, the company has met several times with City officials and Mr. Steve Kohner who owns the Winona Ag Pit. Mr. Schuman presented what they believe to be, at this time, the best option to accomplish the task. It was pointed out, that no matter what kind of system is put into place, it would not prevent the lake from flooding again, but it would allow it to drain quicker. After a lengthy discussion, Councilmember Andring moved and Councilmember Baumgart seconded to allow Yaggy Colby to move forward with the planning process to accomplish the lake outlet. All voted aye, motion carried.

Consent Agenda: Councilmember Ledebuhr moved and Councilmember Andring seconded that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. The agenda included the minutes of the December 15, 2008 regular City Council meeting. All voted aye, motion carried.

There was no Community Comments and/or Input.

Councilmember Ledebuhr asked if more sand could be put on some of the more pertinent intersections within the City. Councilmember Erdman questioned if the City has an ordinance against snowmobiles on City streets, of which she was told yes. She also asked for an update on snowplowing in reference to potentially hitting some garbage containers, and also grass cutting procedures – specifically in the WE Valley Park. She did indicate she believes the parking issues around Winona Lighting are getting better, and she understands the company is trying their best to educate their employees on the matter.

All of the Administrative Reports were reviewed. The City Administrator corrected his report stating he mistakenly indicated the City received \$58,028 of LGA, but in reality that was the amount of the cut in LGA the City received. The actual dollar amount received was \$8,478.

On the subject of Administrative Citations referenced in Police Chief Russell's report, the Mayor pointed out he appreciates Senator Murphy's comments, but would like the City to proceed with the creation of an ordinance to put administrative citations in place. Councilmember Erdman moved and Councilmember Andring seconded to have the City move forward with the creation of this program. All voted aye, motion carried.

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

The letter from Senator Murphy on the unallotment of LGA funds that took place in late December, 2008 was reviewed by the City Council.

City Administrator Matejka reviewed for the Council the changes in the City's fee structure for 2009. Councilmember Ledebuhr moved and Councilmember Andring seconded that Ordinance 86.3, an Ordinance establishing the rates and charges for services provided by the City of Goodview as presented be approved. All voted aye, motion carried.

Mayor Weimerskirch presented his recommendations for the various mayoral appointments for 2009. Councilmember Ledebuhr moved and Councilmember Andring seconded to approve the list with the Mayor's recommendations as presented. All voted aye, motion carried.

The Mayor reminded the Council he will be out of town from January 9 to early April, 2009, so Councilmember Ledebuhr will be the Acting Mayor in his absence.

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

Adjournment at 7:10 p.m.

NOTE: The next regular meeting of the Goodview City Council will be on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at Goodview City Hall.

