

City of Goodview
City Council Minutes
October 24, 2011

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

City Staff Present: City Administrator Dan Matejka, Director of Public Works Greg Volkart, Police Chief Kent Russell, Fire Chief Todd Ives, and Receptionist-Secretary Lori Eschweiler.

Consent Agenda: Councilmember Erdman moved and Councilmember Alexander seconded the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. The agenda included the minutes of the October 3, 2011 regular City Council meeting and the October 2011 Claims, reviewed by Councilmembers Alexander and Erdman. The claims totaled \$232,778.16 for the following operating funds:

General Fund	\$109,883.54
Revolving Projects Fund	68,511.03
Water Service Fund	24,961.00
Sewer Service Fund	29,422.59

All voted aye and the motion carried.

Dave Schultz, whose address is 3730 6th Street, arrived for the community comment and input portion of the meeting, with a complaint about the trucks hauling “frac” sand on 6th Street instead of using Theurer Blvd. or Highway 61. Mayor Weimerskirch said 6th Street is a County road thus any complaints about who uses the street should be directed to the County. However, the Mayor did say he will let the County know we did receive a complaint. Mr. Schultz also complained that the trucks often speed. Police Chief Russell encouraged Mr. Schultz to call in a speeding complaint right away when he witnesses this happening. Chief Russell indicated he did spend time parked along 6th Street today and observed very few trucks and no speeding. He mentioned the possibility of putting up a speed trailer as a deterrent to slow the traffic down. Before leaving, Mr. Schultz said he plans to attend the County Commissioner’s meeting since it is their truck route.

Council concerns, complaints, or inquires: Councilmember Baumgart passed along a thank you message from a resident regarding putting in black asphalt. The gentleman is grateful that it doesn’t retain water and sent his thanks to the Council. Councilmember Erdman told the Council the mailbox issue mentioned at the last meeting will be

addressed by Chief Russell later in the meeting. Mayor Weimerskirch said he received a phone call about a storm sewer grate in the driveway of a resident in WE Valley, and said the City is responsible for repairing it. The City will keep the homeowner informed as to when this will take place.

During the Administrative Reports section of the agenda, the Council acknowledged the Fire Department Administrative Report for October 4, 2011. Mayor Weimerskirch indicated he appreciates getting the report. He also wanted to know if the fire truck was returned in time to be used for the pumpkin-dropping event at the Elks Club on the 16th of this month, of which he was told no. Councilmember Erdman said the Elks used a crane from Winona Homes for the pumpkin drop.

Notices and Communication: The Council discussed the details of the informational meeting the City will hold to discuss the aspects of the Safe Routes to School grant awarded to the City. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Goodview Elementary School Gymnasium. Mayor Weimerskirch encouraged each Councilmember to be there to address questions. He asked if the engineers from Yaggy Colby Associates will be there to conduct the meeting, of which he was told no as Mr. Matejka and Mr. Volkart will do that. City Administrator Matejka said the engineers will offer assistance, present a video on the program, and provide the handouts. Each individual parcel owner will receive a handout showing how the project will look on their property, as well as an overview of how the entire project will look. Councilmembers may answer questions, but no decisions can be made during the meeting. Winona School Superintendent Dr. Scott Hannon and the District's Head of Maintenance, Bill O'Laughlin, were invited to attend. Councilmember Ledebuhr asked Director of Public Works Volkart how much of the "pick up area on 8th Street" is in the City's right-of-way. Mr. Volkart said he would look it up and added we will know more after looking at the handouts provided by the engineers. Councilmember Baumgart informed the Mayor he will be out of town and will be unable to attend. The other councilmembers indicated they plan to be there.

Mayor Weimerskirch mentioned the Maintenance Department's on-call schedule for November is included in the agenda packet.

The City Administrator opened a discussion about the possibility of extending city utilities to the 63rd Avenue area. Mr. Matejka reviewed the cost estimate of the project which was included in the agenda packet. He pointed out that when you add bonding costs, contingencies, and engineering to the cost of construction, you have a slightly less than \$1.8 million dollar project. Of that, 58% would be assessable to the individual landowners using the City's current Assessment Policy. The remaining 42% would be the City's cost. Reading from the handout, Mr. Matejka noted that the square footage of each lot is the basis for calculating the assessments. There are 17 residential lots totaling approximately 281,000 sq. ft. The estimated low assessment equates to \$14,400, the high is \$49,300, with an average of \$29,700 per lot. There are 7 commercial lots averaging \$18,800 in assessments, and one very large undeveloped lot at 253,500 sq. ft., which would equal about a \$395,000 assessment for the project. Mr. Matejka reiterated this

amount is based on the square footage of each lot. If we were to treat everyone equal like we did in Woodhaven, then the average calculation could be used to determine the assessment amount. Councilmember Ledebuhr said the residents are going to complain because they won't understand how the truck route will be of benefit to them, as it will not increase the value of their property. The City Administrator reminded the Councilmembers of the importance to look at the entire project and not to break it down by assessments. Building this as a truck route is the preferred option. There was a discussion about whether the City needs and can afford this project, which will benefit only about 25 parcels, and if we should take on the debt associated with it. Mr. Matejka shared that with this plan, a tax levy will be imposed on all residents and it will probably increase property taxes. He shared information about the \$1.6 million general obligation bond from 2007 associated with the Woodhaven project. The first, and highest, payment of \$177,000 was paid in 2008. The final payment of \$120,000 will come due in 2023. The discussion continued as to if this is a good time to take on this expensive project. City Administrator Matejka posed several questions needing answers: Is the \$1.8 million dollar project worth looking into further? If yes, what will the numbers look like if the truck route cost gets shifted to the City side of things? What would that do to the assessment numbers? And, do we want to fine-tune this further? Mayor Weimerskirch then inquired about what the consensus of the Council is regarding this project. Councilmember Alexander wanted to know what the impact will be Citywide. Mr. Matejka offered to talk to the bonding agent and get an estimated payback schedule for a \$1.8 million dollar project. This topic will be addressed again at a future Council meeting.

There was no New Business.

Under Other Business, City Administrator Matejka asked about the status of the proposed revised sign ordinance which incorporates digital billboards. The Councilmembers agreed that it is good to go and it is time to call a public hearing to adopt the ordinance on November 7, 2011. There was a brief discussion about permit fees and income possibilities for the City.

Mr. Matejka presented to the Council a flip chart visual aid showing the estimated impact of the new Market Value Homestead Credit Exclusion law, which will replace the old Market Value Homestead Credit in 2012. The chart provided information on how the law automatically increases the City's Tax Rate even if the City doesn't increase its levy at all from 2011. Over the last five years, the City's average tax rate has been 44.661%. However, based on the new law, the City's Tax Capacity is being reduced nearly \$250,000. This reduction in Tax Capacity decreases the tax base that the City's tax levy can be spread over. In September of 2011, the City certified a preliminary levy to the County of \$1,464,888, which at that time equated to an estimated 47.74% tax rate. Because of the new tax capacity figure, that same preliminary levy now equals about 51%. The City Administrator pointed out that in order for the City to keep its tax rate relatively the same as in the last five years, the proposed 2012 budget would have to be decreased almost \$200,000, which he said is doable but it would definitely eliminate some City functions that the taxpayers have gotten use to and some City personnel. He

went onto to say that in his opinion the City can no longer continue to function at the 44% tax rate, and because of how severely the City is hurt by the new MVHC Exclusion law, an increase in tax rate is inevitable. He did point out that with the new tax capacity numbers from the County, the residents of Goodview will be receiving their preliminary tax statements showing about a 7% increase in tax rate, from the roughly 44% in 2011 to the new calculated rate of nearly 51%. Mr. Matejka pointed out he is still waiting on some insurance renewal numbers for 2012, but once those are received he will put together a third draft of the 2012 budget taking into account this drastic decrease in City tax base.

Police Chief Russell brought up the complaints regarding cars parked in front of mailboxes. He reported there have only been seven complaints in the last three years. His recommendation is to leave this issue alone, handle complaints as they come, and cooperate with the homeowner. He also shared that parking in front of a mailbox is not considered “disrupting service” and it does not go against the Federal law.

Councilmember Alexander shared that he and his daughter Michelle, a City of Winona Councilmember, attended one of the Biesanz explosions in order to see what the complaints have been about, and reported they did not think it was that big of a nuisance.

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

Adjournment at 6:03 P.M.

NOTE: The next regular meeting of the Goodview City Council will be on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at Goodview City Hall.

Mayor

City Administrator