

City of Goodview
City Council Minutes
December 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Weimerskirch at 6:00 p.m.

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, Maintenance I Worker Aaron Lofgren, and Receptionist-Secretary Lori Eschweiler.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

City Administrator Dan Matejka began the Truth in Taxation informational meeting with a review of a nine-page handout he created, "Proposed 2012 General Fund and Debt Service Fund Budget Summary" highlighting the revenue and expenditure budgets. He referred to the flip chart showing a current property tax statement, explaining how the new Homestead Market Value Exclusion Law is replacing the Market Value Homestead Credit program and how it will affect the 2012 property taxes. There were no comments or suggestions from any of the Councilmembers, nor from any of the community members in attendance. Mayor Weimerskirch declared the Public Hearing on Truth in Taxation closed. There will be a vote on the budget at the Council meeting on December 19, 2011.

The Mayor called to order the regular council meeting.

Councilmember Erdman moved and Councilmember Baumgart seconded the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. The agenda included the minutes of the November 21, 2011 regular City Council meeting. All voted aye and the motion carried.

There were no community comments or input.

Under the council concerns, complaints or inquires, Councilmember Ledebuhr mentioned the Biesanz Stone blasting and that it is a concern for the City of Winona. City Administrator Matejka shared that Mr. Steve Kohner, one of the partners of Biesanz Stone, has offered to give all Councilmembers a one-hour tour of not only Biesanz Stone but also Winona Aggregate, preferably during one of the blasts, which usually take place between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Mr. Matejka will try to coordinate this on behalf of the City.

Mayor Weimerskirch offered praise and congratulations for the people who put on the Goodview lighted parade and the fundraising event at the Elks Lodge afterwards. Mr. Matejka indicated he unofficially heard the silent auction part of the event raised over \$1,500.

City Administrator Matejka reported on the 63rd Avenue letter sent to affected property owners, reporting 17 of the 24 who were sent letters have responded: seven marked “yes” and 10 marked “no”. Mr. Matejka will contact the other seven property owners to find out what their response is.

A Certified Letter was sent to the landlord of an apartment building near Goodview School regarding the debris stockpiled in front of the building, and the lack of progress in rehabilitating the structure after a 2008 fire. The letter defines the expectations of the City, and the consequences for failing to abide by the content of the letter. The recipient has 10 days to respond to the letter. He also has the right to appeal.

Chief Russell reported about the new radios, and the fact they should be up and running no later than March 2012. Motorola has agreed to extend the warranties for at least one year since the radios have not been used.

There was no Unfinished Business

Under New Business, Councilmember Ledebuhr moved and Councilmember Baumgart seconded to approve RESOLUTION NO. 0881, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN EXEMPTION FROM LAWFUL GAMBLING LICENSE FOR DUCKS UNLIMITED CHAPTER 325 – WINONA STATE, FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2012. All voted aye and the motion carried.

At 6:30 p.m., Mayor Weimerskirch adjourned the regular meeting and called to order the Public Hearing to take public comments on the proposed construction of sidewalks in certain areas of the city as part of the Safe Routes to School grant program.

Mr. Nick Wojahn, 4655 6th Street, is in favor of the grant. Mr. Greg Gabbert, 4815 8th Street, is not in favor of the grant expressing concern about no parking in front of his house if the City goes with Plan A. Mr. August Verdick, 4655 8th Street, supports safety, but is against the sidewalks, not understanding why they are needed now after all of these years.

City Administrator Matejka gave an overview of the two different Plans of the Safe Routes to School Grant, along with possible snow removal options under each plan. He pointed out if sidewalks are installed, the removal of snow from them will be the responsibility of the property owner. He also reported some statistics in regards to the proposed project, including an automobile and pedestrian traffic study he conducted at the intersections of 8th Street and 49th Avenue and 9th street and 49th Avenue.

Mayor Weimerskirch opened up the discussion to Council Members and began by saying he has received both electronic and hand written communications for and against the project, and the majority of the people he talked with do not support it. The Mayor appreciated everybody’s input and work on the grant and stated that he is opposed to the project. Councilmember Alexander commented that his opinion has changed since

hearing from the engineers and school personnel and he is now in support of the project. Councilmember Baumgart supports safety, believes that people will use the sidewalks if they are there, and is supportive of the grant.

Mayor Weimerskirch opened it up for additional public comment. Ms. Pat Verdick, 4655 8th Street, said there is no need for the sidewalks since there are no kids walking. Ms. Joy Roth, 4625 8th Street, stated that the safety issues are not on 8th Street and other streets should be considered.

Councilmember Erdman is in favor of the grant because it will give teachers an opportunity to take advantage of the sidewalk for field trips and teach students how to use them safely. Ms. Erdman stressed the importance of looking to the future.

Mayor Weimerskirch adjourned the Public Hearing and opened the regular meeting, requesting a vote to accept or reject the Safe Routes to School grant. Councilmember Alexander moved and Councilmember Erdman seconded to accept Plan A which includes the 3' boulevard extension. Councilmember Ledebuhr expressed concern about households that will be affected by the 3' grass boulevard and 5' sidewalk with regards to their property value. Christina Peterson, an Engineer with Yaggy Colby Associates, mentioned that they could possibly do a combination of the options after further discussion with homeowners. Councilmember Ledebuhr indicated he is very much against the grant. Councilmembers Alexander, Erdman and Baumgart voted in favor of the motion, while Mayor Weimerskirch and Councilmember Ledebuhr voted against it. The motion passed, three to two.

Ms. Joy Roth (4625 8th Street) commented that although she does not agree with the outcome, she did praise the Council on the process. She appreciated the openness of City Government and the ability to have conversations during the process.

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

Adjournment at 7:04 p.m.

NOTE: The next regular meeting of the Goodview City Council will be on Monday, December 19, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at Goodview City Hall.

Mayor

City Administrator