

Wahpeton City Council
May 2, 2011

Present: Bertsch, Hansey, Hartman, Mitskog, Sturdevant, DeVries, Dale, Bajumpaa, and Bohn

Absent: None

Also Present: Huwe, Lies, Nelson, Thorsteinson, Priebe, MacIver, Gutzmer, and Johannessen

Meeting called to order by Mayor Sturdevant.

Consent Agenda Items (presented by the Mayor) – Mayor Sturdevant asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent agenda and there were none.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting held April 18, 2011

Games of Chance Licenses, Site Authorizations & Special Permits

Wahpeton/Breckenridge Zonta Club

Three Rivers Gymnastics

Other Games of Chance and/or special permits

Presentation/Approval of Reports

Flex TM Loan Payoff

Convention & Visitors Bureau Q1 2011 Report

2011 Summer Water Tours

Dilapidated Properties Report

Motion by DeVries, second by Bajumpaa, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion Carried.

ITEMS REQUESTED MOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA None.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND STAFF

FINANCE DIRECTOR/AUDITOR

Huwe asked to suspend the rules to hear a request received late this afternoon. **Motion by Hansey, second by Bertsch, to suspend the rules. Motion Carried.** Huwe explained that Johnson House Moving had let their house moving license expire and would like to pay the \$10 renewal fee to reinstate their house moving license. **Motion by Bajumpaa, second by Bohn, to approve a 2011 license for Johnson House Movers at a \$10 annual renewal rate. Motion Carried.**

2011 Legislative Update Huwe said the North Dakota Legislature officially completed the 62nd Legislative Assembly on April 27th. The ND Senate proposed 326 bills with 205 signed by the Governor to date. The ND House proposed 372 bills with 238 signed by the Governor to date.

Legislation that specifically addresses Cities includes the following: HB 1194 Truth in Taxation PASSED; HB 1256 Graduated Driver's Lic. PASSED; HB 1331 Restricting Special Assessment Financing FAILED; HB 1364 Creating of a high deductible health plan with health savings accounts to be available on 6/30/2013 PASSED; SB 2026 Public Bidding PASSED; SB 2048 Restricting TIF PASSED; SB 2050 Restricting TIF PASSED; SB 2108 Increasing NDPERS

Retirement Contributions PASSED; SB 2253 Recalc of State Aid PASSED; SB 2356 Enabling special assessment of maintenance PASSED; and SB 2369 Snow Removal Grants PASSED.

Communications Agreement – Request Referral to PW Cmt. Mayor Sturdevant will refer this item to Public Works & Public Safety Committee.

NDLC Regional Meeting in Valley City May 4th Huwe reminded Council members of this event which many had registered to attend.

ATTORNEY

Ordinance No. 938 amending penalties for liquor and tobacco violations – second reading

Lies explained the ordinance changes.

Council member Hansey offered the second reading of the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 938
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 22-213(L)
AND
SECTION 7-912 PURCHASING, ATTEMPTING TO PURCHASE,
DELIVERING OR MAKING AVAILABLE TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO
MINORS PROHIBITED

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Ordinance was duly seconded by Councilmember Mitskog, Motion Carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Priebe directed attention to the duplicate ADDY awards received by Absolute Marketing for their creation of the city's Wahpeton Welcome Campaign which will be displayed at City Hall. Priebe said the decision was made to keep the wahpetonwelcome.com website for the next 5 years, and a grant for \$25,000 from the State to assist in these marketing efforts should be received in the near future.

Regarding the Home Improvement Partnership Program, Priebe reported that \$148,000 of the \$250,000 available has been spoken for, with the first loan being made today.

Priebe then gave an update on the Dreams Auction. She said a reported 700 people were in attendance. A total of \$79,000 was raised through silent and live auctions, another \$8,000 in raffles, plus the sales of the heads or tails game and pilsner and wine glasses for a total profit of just over \$100,000 making it the most successful event to date.

Priebe said inquiries are being received on the 86 Dakota Avenue property, which is being sold as is in an RFP format. Information can be found on the wahpeton.com website. Priebe said plans are also in the works to advertise the former 4-H building. Draft advertisements and draft bid documents will be prepared this week upon formal approval by the City Council.

Regarding the Updated Comprehensive Plan, Priebe said the Planning Commission has been given the task to review the draft documents provided by HKGi. These draft documents are available for review by the public on the City's website.

Priebe said the Renaissance Zone Authority had met today to review updated plans for the corner of Dakota Avenue and 11th Street (1025 Dakota Avenue) referred to as the Redevelopment of the Wahpeton Petro Serve, and request was made for Renaissance Zone project approval of the proposal submitted by Dirk Lenthe. Priebe then described the scope of the project, which includes exterior renovations that incorporate the materials and features of the gateway monuments proposed for Dakota Avenue. The RZA unanimously recommended approval of the project with the following 4 contingencies: 1) taxpayer is in goodstanding with the City and the State; 2) financing for storefront improvements is applied for and approved; 3) tenant leases are secured; and 4) parking requirements are satisfied. The request is for conditional approval as a purchase with major improvements for a 100% property tax exemption on improvements only for 5 years. The total estimated amount of property tax exempt value is \$41,753.60, which is based on a post-improvement value of \$650,000. **Motion by Bertsch, second by Mitskog, to give conditional approval for the Renaissance Zone application submitted by Dirk Lenthe for the Redevelopment of the Wahpeton Petro Serve property located at 1025 Dakota Avenue as a Purchase with Major Improvements Renaissance Zone project for a 100% property tax exemption on improvements only for 5 years contingent on the following four requirements being met: 1) taxpayer is in goodstanding with the City and the State; 2) financing for storefront improvements is applied for and approved; 3) tenant leases are secured; and 4) parking requirements are satisfied.** Discussion held. **Motion Carried.**

Priebe reviewed some of the information included in the 2010 Annual Report for the EDC/CDC. She noted that the document does not yet have committee approval.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR NELSON

PW Report

Nelson said the **2010 Consumer Confidence Report** will be mailed out to customers with the May utility bill, is available for viewing on the City's website, and copies can be obtained at City Hall or at the Richland County Health Department. Nelson then talked about some of the information included in the report. Questions can be directed to City Hall.

Nelson announced **Clean Up Week May 16th** which will run May 16-20 on resident's regular curbside garbage pickup day. This service is available to residential customers only. Nelson then reviewed a list of acceptable items. He also stated that Household Hazardous Waste Collection would be held Saturday, May 7th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wilkin County Recycling. Wahpeton residents can deliver items here free of charge on that day.

Nelson requested referral to Finance Committee for memorandum agreement with the CVB for installation and maintenance of banners on Dakota Avenue. Mayor Sturdevant will refer this item to Finance & Personnel Committee.

Nelson requested referral to Finance Committee for a memorandum agreement between the city of Wahpeton and the Wahpeton-Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce for installation and maintenance of hanging flower baskets along Dakota Avenue. Mayor Sturdevant will refer this item to Finance & Personnel Committee.

Discussion was then held regarding vector control, and also regarding striping on the side streets along Dakota Avenue.

REPORTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Finance Committee Report

Bohn said the Finance Committee met at noon on April 25th.

Potential Bond Refunding on Bond Series 2003D – motion to recommend approval to proceed Motion by Bohn, second by Mitskog, to proceed to negotiate with the financial consultant on potential bond refunding on Bond Series 2003D. Motion Carried.

Housing Incentive Set-Aside Fund – discussion no action required

Proposed initiated Measure to Abolish Property Taxes – discussion no action required

Workforce Safety Recommended Policies – discussion

Sale of Former 4-H Property at 688 4th Ave. S – motion to recommend advertising for bids Motion by Bohn, second by DeVries, to approve advertising for bids for the old 4-H building property on 4th Avenue South. Motion Carried.

Public Works Public Safety Committee Report

Hansey said the Publics Works Public Safety Committee met at noon on April 26th.

Dilapidated Properties Report Update

2010 Consumer Confidence Report – see PW Director Report

Permission to Advertise Well No. 1 Pump and Motor Replacement Project No. W11-182 – motion to recommend advertising for bids – Motion by Hansey, second by Hartman, to approve advertising Well No. 1 Pump and Motor Replacement, Project No. W11-182. Motion Carried.

Change Order No. 4 for Flood Protection Improvements at Harry Stern Airport Comstock Construction, Inc. – motion to recommend approval of deduct change order for (\$3,299.22) – Motion by Hansey, second by Hartman, to approve acceptance of Deduct Change Order No. 4 for (\$3,299.22) for Flood Protection Improvements at Harry Stern Airport Comstock Construction, Inc. Motion Carried.

Engineer's Report for Cul-de-Sac Street Improvements Project No. ST10-161 – ongoing discussion

Preliminary Design Report for 3rd Ave. N. Reconstruction Project No. ST11-108 - discussion

SCHEDULING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following Committee Meetings were then scheduled:

- a. Flood Committee May 6th, 7:00 a.m.
- b. Finance Committee May 9th, 12:00 Noon
- c. PW/PS Committee May 10th, 12:00 Noon

Motion by Mitskog, seconded by Hartman, to adjourn.

Mayor Sturdevant

Lynelle Amos, Finance Assistant