

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2012**

MINUTES

The Community Development Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Thursday, August 30, 2012, in Conference Room No.1 at the City Office Building. Chair Dokken called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Present:

Jim Dokken	Chair
Steve Ahmann	Council Member
Ron Christianson	Council Member
Bruce DeBlieck	Council Member
Bruce Peterson	Director of Planning and Development Services
Charlene Stevens	City Administrator

Others present: Mayor Frank Yanish and David Little – West Central Tribune.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

There were no public comments offered at this meeting.

2. ANIMAL ORDINANCE (MOTION)

Chair Dokken reviewed with the Committee the memorandum prepared by the City Attorney regarding the regulation of animals in the City. Discussion focused on whether or not chickens should be allowed in residential areas, and on placing limits on the number of animals allowed. It was a consensus of the Committee that chickens not be allowed in residential areas, but still be allowed in agricultural and industrial areas. Also, that the number of rabbits allowed be reduced to 6 per property and pigeons reduced to 30 per property. It was also agreed that premises currently licensed for chickens will be allowed to retain the chickens until current licenses expire.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Council member DeBlieck, seconded by Council member Ahmann, and passed for the following:

RECOMMENDATION: That the proposed changes be made to the draft ordinance and that the City Attorney be directed to prepare a new ordinance for hearing (see attachment).

3. NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

This agenda item was deferred pending further research by Chair Dokken.

4. CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

It was noted that there was \$6,000 in the proposed 2013 budget to be used by the City to partner in a community clean-up effort. It is anticipated that the City will again work with Lakeland Broadcasting staff to plan for and carry out the event.

5. MISCELLANY (MOTION)

Council Member Ahmann asked the Committee to consider several matters. He first suggested that the City require developers to give assurances to protect taxpayers in projects with City financial participation. He recommended that the City be able to withhold financial participation if the project reaches a specified level of profitability. Council Member Ahmann also proposed that boards and commissions, and groups or agencies receiving City financial assistance, be required to adopt a conflict of interest policy. The Committee discussed the two matters before offering the following motion.

A motion was made by Council member Ahmann, seconded by Council member Christianson, and passed for the following:

RECOMMENDATION: To refer the developer assurance and conflict of interest issues to staff for follow-up.

Council member Christianson asked staff to invite the County Sanitarian to a future meeting to explain what he and his department do.

6. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce D. Peterson, AICP
Director of Planning and Development Services