

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT 12-02
CITY OF WILLMAR
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012

A meeting of the Public Works/Safety Committee was called to order at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, by Chairman Doug Reese at the City Office Building. Members present were: Council Members Bruce DeBlieck, Rick Fagerlie, Jim Dokken (substituting for Item No. 1), and Tim Johnson (substituting for Ron Christianson for the remainder of the items). Also present were: Mayor Frank Yanish, Charlene Stevens, City Administrator; Holly Wilson, Public Works Director; Dave Wyffels, Police Chief; Marv Calvin, Fire Chief; Kevin Halliday, City Clerk, Joe Ridler, Dave Baker, David Little, "West Central Tribune," and Janell Sommers, Recording Secretary.

1. 2012 IMPROVEMENT REPORT:

Public Works Director Wilson presented the Improvement Report for the proposed 2012 Improvements and briefly outlined the segments of residential streets to be reconstructed totaling .91 miles, overlay totaling .81 miles, new construction of .56 miles consisting of Willmar Avenue SW from Industrial Boulevard to 22nd Street SW, and various miscellaneous items. The construction of Willmar Avenue is pending the airport land release and railroad crossing improvements. The replacement of sanitary sewer is included in the estimate for all reconstructed streets pending the televising reports. The total estimated cost of the improvements is \$2,736,306.49.

Miscellaneous work includes the bridge deck rehabilitation, storm water improvements, walk paths on 22nd Street SW and Willmar Avenue SW, sidewalk on 24th Avenue SE, a Mn/DOT water main relocation, crack seal, and seal coat. The specifics of the improvements are detailed in the report presented by the Public Works Director.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Council Member DeBlieck seconded by Council Member Dokken, and passed for the following

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Accept the Improvement Report and order an Improvement Hearing for 7:02 p.m., February 21, 2012. (Resolution)

2. DISCUSS NEXT STEPS FOR STORM WATER TASK FORCE:

Members of the Storm Water Task Force have been inquiring as to their role now that the Storm Water Management Plan is near completion by Barr Engineering and scheduled to be presented to the City Council in April. Joe Ridler, Chairman of the Task Force, addressed the committee stating that

funding is the main issue to be resolved for the City to move forward with any of the findings from the report. He encouraged the members to include storm water improvements in the budget process for 2013. It was the consensus of the committee to maintain the Storm Water Task Force. Future recommendations from the Storm Water Task Force will reflect the findings of the final Barr report.

3. NOTIFICATION OF DONATION RECEIVED BY WILLMAR'S FIRE EXPLORER POST (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

Fire Chief Calvin informed the committee of two donations totaling \$500 received from the local and state Masonic Charities (\$250 each). The funds will help provide the post members ages 14 – 20 years old with the gear and personal protective equipment required for participation. This was presented for information only.

4. CONSIDERATION OF CITY PARK SPECIAL EVENT BY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE HOLDER PERMIT:

The City received a request from Dave Baker of Baker's Eagle Creek Eatery LLC, a current on-sale liquor license holder to hold a rib or wing fest along with a concert at Robbins Island Park this summer. In order to hold such an event, a City Park Special Event by On-Sale Liquor License Holder Permit must be granted to sell alcohol beverages at the event. The area proposed includes the beach parking lot with access to the restrooms and shelter without blocking off the public beach or bike path. The request has been reviewed and approved by the Community Education and Recreation Board on January 27, 2012. A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, and passed for the following

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the City Park Special Event by On-Sale Liquor License for the event contingent upon approval of the City Attorney and Chief of Police. (Motion)

5. ALARM ORDINANCE DISCUSSION:

The discussion of the ordinance relating to alarm systems was brought back to committee pursuant to the City Attorney's recommendation to introduce an ordinance repealing the existing Municipal Code Sections 8-281 and 8-282.

Initially the ordinance was reviewed by staff and found to be outdated due to technological changes and current business practices. Repealing the ordinance is recommended as it requires compliance and issues a penalty based on an alarm panel that has not existed since 1999 and the ordinance has no substance to push households or businesses to obtain permits or pay penalties for non-compliance. In order to incorporate a penalty clause to enhance compliance, a modification to the current City Charter is required.

It is staff's recommendation to repeal the current ordinance in its entirety, and if the City wishes, change the Charter and draft a new ordinance in the future if excessive alarms are deemed to be a problem. This action means alarms are no longer regulated through the use of permits, yet fire and police will continue to respond to all alarms with or without regulation.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Council Member DeBlieck, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, and passed for the following

RECOMMENDATION:

To introduce an ordinance for hearing repealing the Municipal Code Sections 8-281 and 8-282. (Motion)

6. CONSIDERATION OF WAL-MART FOUNDATION'S LOCAL COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION GRANT APPLICATION:

Chief Wyffels requested permission to allow staff to apply and if awarded, accept the charitable donation from the Wal-Mart Foundation's Local Community Contribution Grant. The Willmar Police Department has participated in the "Shop-With-A-Cop" Christmas gifting program supported by this grant process for many years. The grant process is an online application beginning February 2012 and requests are awarded on a first come-first serve basis. Willmar has been selected as a past recipient. Amounts funded in the past have been \$1,000 for the "Shop-With-A-Cop" program. The program allows needy people who don't have money to buy Christmas gifts to shop with a police officer with Wal-Mart cards. A motion was made by Council Member Fagerlie, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, and passed for the following

RECOMMENDATION:

Allow staff to apply and if awarded, accept the donation as requested. (Resolution)

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Holly Wilson, PE
Public Works Director

Janell Sommers
Recording Secretary