

**PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT 12-06  
CITY OF WILLMAR  
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2012**

A meeting of the Public Works/Safety Committee was called to order at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2012, by Chairman Doug Reese at the City Office Building. Members present were: Council Members Tim Johnson (substituting for Ron Christianson), Bruce DeBlieck, and Rick Fagerlie. Also present were: Holly Wilson, Public Works Director; Dave Wyffels, Police Chief; Marv Calvin, Fire Chief; Brad Hanson, Willmar Ambulance Service, Mr. Greene and his 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science Class of Community Christian School; David Little, "West Central Tribune," and Janell Sommers, Recording Secretary.

**1. COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL EIGHTH GRADE EARTH SCIENCE CLASS PRESENTATION (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):**

Mr. Greene and his 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science Class of Community Christian School gave a presentation to the committee containing information they collected from soil and water samples in three areas of Ramblewood Slough. They used technical equipment obtained through a grant. The soil was sampled at the surface level, 6 inches, and if accessible, at 2.5 to 3 feet below the surface. They also recorded external data related to weather conditions and the specific location with GPS. The committee received the information and thanked the class for their efforts stating that it would be interesting to use this data as a baseline for future years.

**2. APPROVE APPLICATION FOR HEART SAFE COMMUNITY:**

Brad Hanson of the Willmar Ambulance presented information related to the City applying to become a Heart Safe Community. The program promotes community awareness for sudden cardiac arrest. Willmar currently assists businesses with purchases of AED's and CPR training and it would be nice to be recognized for the efforts. The designation would identify Willmar as a Heart Safe Community and would allow the City to place signs at the entrances of the City. The program provides two signs and any additional signs can be purchased for \$35 each at a cost to the City. A motion was made by Council Member DeBlieck, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, and passed for the following

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the application for Willmar to become a Heart Safe Community and authorize the City Administrator to sign on behalf of the City. (Resolution)

**3. CONSIDERATION OF FOWL PERMITS:**

**612 SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street:** The City has received an application from Maria Hernandez to keep ten chickens in a cage behind her residence at 612 SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff has spoken with neighbors on both sides and received no objections and therefore recommends approval. A motion was made by Council Member Fagerlie, seconded by Council Member Johnson, and passed for the following

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the fowl permit at 612 SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street for a period of one year.  
(Motion)

**805 SW 11<sup>th</sup> Street:** A second application for a fowl permit was received from Carey Hodapp to keep three chickens at 805 SW 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The fowl would be kept in a fenced in area outside of their yard fence by the road. When staff checked with neighbors neither were in favor of the request stating that other pets are allowed to run free into their back yards. Based on their comments, Chief Wyffels felt the request be denied. A motion was made by Council Member Fagerlie, seconded by Council Member Johnson and passed for the following

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To deny the request for a fowl permit at 612 SW 15<sup>th</sup> Street. (Motion)

**1001 SW 18<sup>th</sup> Street:** A third application for a fowl permit was received from Heather King to keep three chickens at 1001 SW 18<sup>th</sup> Street. The fowl will be housed in an enclosed shed with a fenced outside area in the northeast corner of the backyard. One neighbor was contacted and they had no problem with the request. A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, and passed for the following

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Approve the fowl permit at 1001 SW 18<sup>th</sup> Street for a period of one year.  
(Motion)

**4. CONSIDERATION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE TOWARDS ZERO DEATH GRANT:**

Police Chief Wyffels presented a request for the Willmar Police Department to participate in the Toward Zero Death (TZD) grant which is obtained and managed by the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Department and in effect from October, 2012 through September, 2014. This grant allows the Willmar Police to participate in multi-jurisdictional targeted traffic enforcement waves within the community and surrounding area. In past years this grant was better known as Safe and Sober and Willmar has participated in it for over ten years. The participating agencies receive money back for the officers' time spent enforcing traffic laws. After a short discussion, a motion was made by Council Member DeBlicek, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, and passed for the following

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Grant permission to the Willmar Police Department to participate with surrounding law enforcement agencies in the Towards Zero Death grant obtained and managed by Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Department. (Resolution)

**5. CONSIDERATION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT:**

Police Chief Wyffels requested approval for the Willmar Police Department to apply for, and if awarded, participate in a Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant which reimburses 50% of the cost to purchase bulletproof vests for police officers. This grant has been an ongoing grant in which the department has participated in for more than 15 years. Participation reduces the amount that would otherwise be incurred to maintain bulletproof vests for officers. A motion was made by Council Member Fagerlie, seconded by Council Member DeBlicek and passed for the following

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Grant permission to allow the Willmar Police Department to apply for and participate in the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance grant for the fiscal year 2012 bullet proof vest program. (Resolution)

**6. CONSIDERATION OF POLICY TO SET FEES FOR FALSE ALARMS:**

Fire Chief Calvin presented the committee with a proposed policy to incorporate into a new ordinance for false fire alarms. The previous ordinance was rescinded as it was outdated due to current technology. Staff recommended a new ordinance be drafted based on this policy.

The previous ordinance charged false alarm fees of \$250 after five false alarms per fiscal year. The Fire Department is proposing a similar policy to be put into place effective January 1, 2013, which would allow three false alarms per address per calendar year. After three, \$250 fee would be charged. An application for a Fire Alarm Permit would also be required every three years at a cost of \$30 for all UL listed alarm systems. This permit would be a tool to the department giving them information of key holders to contact in the event a problem is found on the premises.

The committee discussed the false alarm policy as it was presented and concurred with staff with the exception of the fee charged. Some committee members felt a fee of \$500 after three false alarms was more adequate as it costs the Fire Department over \$2,000 for each fire call. A motion was made by Council Member Fagerlie, seconded by Council Member Johnson, and passed for the following

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Direct staff to draft an ordinance with the City Attorney for false alarms based on the policy drafted and the charge of \$500 to be brought back to committee for review. (Motion)

**7. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

Council Member Fagerlie questioned the runoff of the new parking lot on the east side of the former Washington School building recently purchased by Affiliated Medical Centers. Public Works Director Wilson explained that during plan review, the contractor was required to divert as much runoff as possible into the grassy area.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Holly Wilson, PE  
Public Works Director

Janell Sommers  
Recording Secretary