COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF WINNEBAGO, MINNESOTA

MINUTES OF THE WINNEBAGO CITY COUNCIL

City of Winnebago, Minnesota

March 2, 2009

A special meeting of the Winnebago City Council was held on Monday, March 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center Council Chambers.

Mayor Nowak called the meeting to order and conducted roll call. Council members present: Gates, Johnson, Ziegler and Weerts. Staff present: City Administrator Feely and Deputy City Clerk Sturtz.

Administrator Feely presented a PowerPoint presentation about what LGA is and how it affects the City of Winnebago. After the presentation, Mayor Nowak opened the meeting to the public. Citizen Tim Hynes, 505 3rd Ave NW, suggested adjusting the enterprise funds to cover some of the shortages, look at the outstanding bonds and have them redone and look at what we need or what we want such as the flower baskets. He stated that he didn't think that we should be spending out of the reserves because we may need them for a real emergency. Weerts stated that he didn't like to see the street maintenance cut from $67,000 to $20,000 because the City needs to maintain the roads. Gates stated that if the City refinances the bonds, the City may not get as good of a rating as before. Gary Adams, 627 1st Ave NW wanted to know why once a week he sees the City vehicle in Huntley at the Huntley café and the why the grader is sitting outside City Hall running while the staff is having coffee. Johnson stated that the Public Works department has to check the generators once a week and while the generators are running the two public works department guys go and have lunch. Adams suggested that the Public Works Department should conserve how they use the city vehicles. Randy Olson, 734 Cleveland Ave W, wondered how much this was going to affect property taxes. Gates stated that this will not affect the 2009 taxes, but maybe the 2010 taxes. Olson suggested looking at alternatives ways to repair the streets, such as paving stones. He doesn't want to see anything cut with the fire or ambulance departments. He stated that maybe there is a way for the city to get a grant to help maintain the streets. He suggested looking at the JM building and maybe put 5 to 10 first time businesses in there to generate some income. Weerts stated that the Council has been meeting with JM and things are going on that are not being printed in the newspapers. Scott Robertson, 18195 340th

Street, stated that it starts at the top with the citizens. He stated that the citizens need to look into how they can help out the City and if Council has to raise taxes then do it. Judi Hynes asked if the City was still going to have the seasonal person. Randy Olson stated that if the City stopped plowing alleys, for some that is their only access into their house. Dennis Lynch asked about freezing wages. Norma Schmidt stated that the City should be optimistic and be thankful that the staff has a job. She asked if the City was looking for the best insurance rates. Dennis Lynch asked about getting rid of the Dakota pickup and the mowing contract. Randy Olson suggested that the City have the sentence to serve come in and do some of the littler jobs, such as curb painting. He stated that he is part of the Youth for Christ and they could do some projects for the City. Hynes asked about overtime. Administrator Feely stated that a wage freeze would save about $7,000 and including the enterprise funds about $12,000. Gary Adams asked how much it would save to cut one of the Public Works staff. Dennis suggested looking into how much it would cost for a company to come in and run Water Treatment Plant or the Waste Water Plant. He also suggested limiting the hours on the pool. Tim Hynes suggested shortening the pool season. Scott Robertson suggested that all of the departments do the same as the police department did. Tim Hynes stated that the ambulance is looking into grants for the new ambulance. Hearing no more suggestions or comments, Mayor Nowak closed the meeting to the public.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gates to approve the proposed meeting agenda of March 2, 2009. Motion carried.

General Business

Budget Work Session

Administrator Feely asked the Council to provide guidance on how they would like the City to proceed with wage increases and overtime. Ziegler stated that he would like to see something on paper for him to approve it. Weerts stated that he would not like to see the street maintenance cut that much. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Weerts to freeze wages and reevaluate in 12 months for all city employees. Voting in favor: Gates, Johnson and Weerts. Voting against: Ziegler. Motion carried.

The council discussed the overtime and determined that foreseeable overtime should be negotiated into the 40 hour work week and that those hours be taken off sometime during those 40 hours. Weerts stated that he would like to see the street maintenance cut from $67,000 to $50,000. Motion by Weerts, seconded by Gates to make the following changes to the budget. Administrative Services cut $5000, Ambulance cut $1500, Fire cut $4500, General Government cut by $2422, Library cut $400, Parks cut $2000, Public Safety $11000, Street cut $23000 and wage freeze approximately $7000, with a total savings of $56822. Motion carried.

Hiring of Part-Time Police Officers

Motion by Gates, seconded by Weerts to hire Adam Anderson and Michael Beletti as part-time officers for the City of Winnebago, contingent upon successfully completing all necessary testing requirements and background investigations. Motion carried.

Open Meeting to Public
Mayor Nowak opened the meeting to the public for the second time. Hearing no comments, Mayor Nowak closed the meeting to the public.

Announcements
Next regular meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Nowak thanked Rick for stepping in for him for the part-time police officer interviews. Weerts thanked the citizens for coming and for the input.

Presented to Council March 10, 2009

Randy Nowak
Mayor

Jennifer Feely
City Administrator