

Councilpersons:
First Ward: Friedmeyer, Wharton
Second Ward: Schmidt, Kruger
Third Ward: Meurer, Schoen

Mayor: Rollin Hall
City Atty: Peter Ekstrand
City Adm: Chad Springer
City Clerk: Susan Schamaun
Date: January 13, 2015

***SPECIAL MEETING (WORKSHOP) PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AT
THE NATIONAL EAGLE CENTER***

The special meeting of the City Council of the City of Wabasha was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, and was called to order at 9:03 am by Mayor Hall.

Councilpersons present: Friedmeyer, Kruger, Wharton, Schmidt, Schoen and Mayor Hall.
Councilperson Meurer was absent.

Department Heads present: Mike Mroz, Michele McCaughtry, Tony Johnson, John Fox, and Jim Warren. Port Authority President, Victoria Moore, and Port Authority Vice President Rolf Thompson were also present.

1.1 General Business: Riverfront Taskforce – Wabasha Port Authority President Victoria Moore and Vice-President Rolf Thompson:

Ms. Victoria Moore stated the Riverfront Taskforce was formed in response to the National Eagle Center's need for expansion. It was felt a comprehensive plan for the entire vacant parcel would provide best value to both the National Eagle Center and the City.

Rolf Thompson came forward and stated the National Eagle Center is at capacity and over capacity at certain times. The National Eagle Center Board is looking at issues for the next 5-10 years to meet demands of space and programs. They determined eagle care space is at the top of the list and needs to be addressed first. They have determined 10,000 – 12,000 sq. ft. of additional space is needed. They do not have official plans and they can't make plans until the City determines what they want to do with the vacant adjacent property.

Victoria stated the Port Authority has determined the adjacent vacant lot is unique due to its location. She also stated the community has emotional ownership and the City has ownership which makes the use of the land contentious at times. It is the only available riverfront land in this community. Due to this, the Riverfront Taskforce was formed. The Riverfront Taskforce is made up of multi-generational members who represent the broader community.

The following presentation was made:

Riverfront Task Force

- Work to Date

Background

- NEC brings forward their need for expansion, ideally adjacent to present location
- NEC and PA believe comprehensive plan for entire parcel would provide best value to both NEC and City

Why a Task Force?

- Parcel is especially important to the long-term future of Wabasha
- Only undeveloped riverfront land
- Purchase cost of the land was substantial
- Location immediately adjacent to the NEC requires comprehensive strategy
- Use of the land has been contentious in the past

Task Force Members

- Represent broader community
- Multi-generational
- Co-chairs: Rolf Thompson, Victoria Moore
- City Council Representatives: Rollin Hall(Mayor), John Friedmeyer (Planning), Lynn Schoen (HPC)
- Members: Brad Busch, Kristie Clark, Scott Durand, Cathy Gray, Miranda Gray-Burlingame, Kirk Lineweaver, Jodie Schmoker, Chad Springer

Goals for the Land

- Enhances Wabasha as a Tourist Destination
- Contributes to the Economic Vitality of the Community
- Honors the Relationship with the River as a Significant and Defining Asset
- Synergistic with the NEC

Work to Date

- Endorsement of goals
- “Blue Sky” Discussion of possible uses with no strong consensus
- Reviewed previous work done by LHB and determined that it did not address the riverfront land in any specific way
- Endorsement of use of a consultant to guide the ongoing process
- Interviewed consultants and recommended Landform

Why a Consultant?

- To bring additional expertise to ensure all the right questions are asked
- To make sure no feasible option is missed
- To enlarge the pool of potential developers
- To bring objective rigor to the process
- To craft materials to “market” the property for its highest and best use

What Will the Consultant Do?

- Work with City Staff to formally analyze the site including both its assets and liabilities
- Document the analysis in a form useful to the City Council and potential developers and that could be used in a future RFP
- Work with the Task Force in evaluating a range of possible uses against the identified goals
- Identify potential developers and facilitate a work session to garner their input and concerns
- Craft a final report documenting the process and final concepts to provide the City Council a comprehensive analysis on which to base their decisions regarding the riverfront land

What Will This Cost?

- \$19,500
- Fees could be paid either from the General Fund or from the Port Authority funds

The following questions were discussed.

Questions for the Council

- Do you endorse a comprehensive plan for the river front land including expansion of the NEC?
- Do you endorse the four goals for the land as determined by the Port Authority and the Task Force?
- Do you endorse the Riverfront Task Force and its process?
- Do you endorse the use of an outside consultant?

Councilpersons Schoen and Kruger moved to endorse the four goals for the vacant riverfront parcel presented by the Port Authority and the Riverfront Taskforce:

Goals for the Land

- **Enhances Wabasha as a Tourist Destination**
- **Contributes to the Economic Vitality of the Community**
- **Honors the Relationship with the River as a Significant and Defining Asset**
- **Synergistic with the NEC**

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Wharton, Schmidt, Schoen, Kruger, Friedmeyer, Mayor Hall

Nays: None

Councilpersons Kruger and Schoen moved to endorse the Comprehensive Plan for the riverfront land including expansion of the National Eagle Center. Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Hall, Schoen, Friedmeyer, Wharton, Kruger

Nays: Schmidt

Councilpersons Friedmeyer and Schoen moved to endorse the Riverfront Taskforce and its process. Adopted unanimously.

Discussion was held on the endorsement of using an outside consultant and which entity should fund the consultant.

At 9:47 a.m. Fire Chief Darren Sheeley arrived.

Councilpersons Wharton and Friedmeyer moved to endorse the use of an outside consultant.

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Kruger, Friedmeyer, Schmidt, Mayor Hall, Schoen, Wharton

Nays: None

Councilpersons Wharton and Schoen moved that the Port Authority will fund hiring of the outside consultant. Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Schoen, Kruger, Schmidt, Wharton, Friedmeyer

Nays: Mayor Hall

2014 Year in Review:

City Administrator, Chad Springer, gave the following 2014 highlights:

- All departments worked together to battle multiple and various issues throughout the City:
 - 2014 flood
 - 2014 Street Project
 - Street Superintendent, Tony Johnson, worked with City Engineers, Bolton & Menk to re-engineer portions of the project which brought the project cost from \$500,000 down to \$397,000.
 - CUE Center Recognition
 - Chief Warren organized a task force to further analyze the Donna Ingersoll case and received national attention from CUE Center.
 - Information Tech Upgrades
 - Sue, Patty & Wendy streamlined duties and gained efficiency in day to day tasks.
 - City started a social media site as another vehicle to keep citizens informed.

- Rotary Beach Park Improvements:
 - Park Superintendent, Mike Mroz, spearheaded the completion of the Rotary Beach Park playground as well as collaborated with the Wabasha Falcon Youth Baseball group to complete many improvements at the Athletic Field.
- Council supported and Governor Dayton signed a bill dedicating the Interstate Bridge as the 'Michael Duane Clickner Memorial Bridge' for Michael and all veterans.
- After several years of planning, the Fire Department led by Fire Chief Darren Sheeley, purchased a used truck saving the City approximately \$170,000 from the expected cost of a new truck.
- Due to the flood, the fireworks were relocated to the W-K High School.
- The Ambulance service raised funds to purchase a second LUCAS device in early 2014.
- City hired new ambulance director, John Fox.
- Completed RFP's to engage Bolton & Menk for the City's engineering and planning services.
- In collaboration with Bolton & Menk, implemented new GIS maps.
- Successfully transitioned to PeopleService for water and wastewater operations.
- Staff completed 250 hours of training.
- City Council in collaboration with the Port Authority and Planning Commission successfully removed hurdles to enhance the marketability of the Business Park lots.
- Wabasha Public Library had 34,000 visits with 38,000 items circulated and 4,600 logins on the PC's.

Chad Springer shared 2014 feedback he received from Council:

- Existing Staff and recruitment efforts
- Sewer treatment plant improvements
- Business Park progression
- Technology and other operational improvements
- 2014 Street Project
- Financial performance
- Keeping 2015 Budget to 1.5% increase
- Council cohesiveness
- Mining ordinance/silica progression
- Engineering firm change

Each department head gave a brief description on their 2014 budget financial performance.

Chad Springer reported to date, \$19,000 has been spent on additional legal fees due to the Roemer Lawsuit and the Teepeota Detachment issue.

Also, Chad reported the Planning/Zoning savings to date have been \$30,000 with the contract arrangements with WSB and Bolton & Menk.

Miscellaneous Budget was also over budget due to the Campbell Avenue property demolition which will be recouped by way of assessments.

Chad reported revenues are tracking to come in over projections for 2014 and expenses will be slighted over budget due to unforeseen circumstances in regards to legal representation for lawsuits and weather related issues also.

2015 Goals:

Chad Springer stated goals for 2015 will be as follows:

- Maintain civility
 - Need to maintain image and work to improve outside image of “Wabasha”
- Continue Culture Change
 - Remove “fear” or “unapproachability” of City Hall for employees and citizens.
- Enhance Work/Life Balance
 - With a thin staff continue to train on “back-ups” and coverage to allow staff to maintain balance.

Chad also reported the following Operation Goals:

- Agenda Software by June 2015
- Finalize Personnel Police – 1st Quarter
- Review Job Descriptions to Pay Scale
- Continued Financial Clean-up
- Continued Education/Training

Additional projects City staff and Council will be focusing on in 2015 will be updating the Comprehensive Plan, the Riverfront parcel, the Regional Events Center and the Regional Capital Improvement Plan.

Chad reported to Council that feedback from Council to focus on for 2015 and beyond were as listed:

- Riverfront Property
- Regional Event Center Progress
- Bonding Submission
- Police Contract
- Library Partnership
- Salary Structure
- Trucking Safety
- Transportation
- Become more Business-friendly
- Continued efforts on silica and mining
- Comprehensive Plan

Trucking safety and trucking routes were discussed. It was determined the painting of truck routes would be an item for discussion for the Street Commission. Councilperson Schoen stated she felt the truck routes should be painted.

Councilperson Schoen also wanted the Park Board and City to look at the small plats of land and park spaces and whether they can be gifted to landowners rather than trying to keep them maintained. She

felt it would be viable to look into how much time is being spent on upgrading or maintaining areas that nobody can use.

Councilperson Kruger thanked Chad Springer for the report and presentation and also thanked City staff for doing a good job.

Councilperson Schmidt stated Council hired Chad to run the City of Wabasha and he has done a good job and Council can sit back and watch and give him their blessing and give him some latitude to run the City.

Chad reported he has good staff.

Having no other business, Councilpersons Friedmeyer and Schoen moved to adjourn at 11:29 am.
Adopted unanimously.

Susan Schamaun, City Clerk