

**City of Moorhead
Committee of the Whole
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2010 at 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, on January 19, 2010, at 5:30 PM.

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

1st Ward Council Member:	Luther Stueland	Absent
1st Ward Council Member:	Nancy Otto	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Diane Wray Williams	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Mark Altenburg	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Dan Hunt	Absent
3rd Ward Council Member:	Brenda Elmer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Mark Hintermeyer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Greg Lemke	Present
Mayor:	Mark Voxland	Present

Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. [Discuss Outside Agency Funding - Animal Control](#)

Minutes: Michael Redlinger, City Manager, indicated that this item was held over from the December 14, 2009 City Council meeting. As part of the Adopted 2010 Operating and Capital Budget, the Mayor and Council set aside the designation of animal control dollars (\$2,450) for later discussion. Redlinger noted that representatives of the FM Humane Society and Minn-Kota PAAWS (People Advocating Animal Welfare Services) were present to provide information to the Council, if requested.

Nukhet Hendricks, Executive Director of the FM Humane Society, spoke briefly about their organization and services. She stated that she would like to see both FM Human Society and Minn-Kota PAAWS receive a portion of the animal control dollars.

Carol Slawicky Minn-Kota PAAWS, provided information and handouts to the Mayor and Council on their organization and services. She stated that their organization would definitely benefit from receiving a portion of the City's animal control dollars.

Council Members noted that both organizations provide a valuable service to the community and that it will be difficult to make a decision on how to designate animal control funds.

Mayor Voxland read a statement on behalf of Council Member Stueland, who could not be present at the meeting. The statement highlighted his concerns regarding the City's current practice in designating funds to charitable organizations.

Council Member Elmer asked how organizations could request outside

agency funding. Redlinger clarified that City staff receive request letters from organizations. Many of the requests in the 2010 budget are longstanding requests. Redlinger suggested that the Council consider a policy change for outside agency funding at a Committee of the Whole meeting in the spring of 2010 as the Council works with City staff to develop the 2011 budget.

Brian Neugebauer, City Attorney, stated that Council could unallocate designations to organizations that were allocated in the 2010 budget, but he cautioned the Council about making a change mid-year when these organizations have made plans to receive the funds.

Council requested that staff provide information to the Council on funded organizations who receive mandated/contractual dollars and those that are discretionary in nature.

Council indicated they would like to make a decision on 2010 animal control funding at the next Council meeting.

2. [Review of the Draft 2010-2014 Pavement Management and Transportation Improvement Plan](#)

Minutes: Bob Zimmerman, City Engineer, detailed the "2010-2014 Pavement Management and Transportation Improvement Plan". He credited staff members Tom Trowbridge, Jody Bertrand, and Jim Schulz for their work on the report. As part of this presentation and discussion, Zimmerman clarified the following points for Council:

- City staff intends to talk to an expert on traffic signal pre-emption timing to improve traffic flow issues along streets near the railroad tracks. He noted that efficiency of movement needs to be balanced with safety. There have also been some initial conversations with the City of Fargo, Metro COG, and Mn/DOT regarding possible consolidated efforts with regard to traffic signals.
- Municipal State Aid Street (MSAS) funding assists cities to pay for improved street conditions. The MSAS system continues to grow with more cities and more mileage, thereby reducing the annual apportionment by the state. Mileage eligible for MSAS funding within the City of Moorhead has grown by about 70%. However, the annual apportionment of MSAS dollars has only increased by 20%.
- Engineering staff ranked the priority projects scheduled for 2010. The estimated property tax increase on a single family residence valued at \$137,800 would see a property tax increase of \$21.60.
- Assessment rates for local streets are calculated at a certain dollar amount per front foot to ensure equitable rates across the City. For collector streets and minor arterial streets the assessment rates also consider the distance between that street and other collector streets to recognize the larger benefitted area and it also allows the City to generate enough revenue for the project. Through special assessments, citizens pay about 1/3 of the cost to have the street improved. General property tax pays for the other 2/3.

- In 2006 the City initiated a new method of data collection to assess the surface condition of City streets. The assessment is conducted once every three years and is used to prioritize maintenance and construction projects. Currently, the City of Moorhead has approximately 77 street miles that require simple maintenance (cost implication of \$40,000-\$50,000 per mile); 98 miles of deteriorating street conditions which require more attention (cost implication of one-half million per mile); and 24 miles in poor condition (cost implication of two million per mile). Most roads in poor condition have already been scheduled for repair. Approximately 50% of City streets fall into the “deteriorating” category and are the focus for City projects to prevent further deterioration and expensive repair/reconstruction.
- Moorhead’s 20th Street South will be a project that will be difficult to complete solely with local funds. The City anticipates the receipt of State or Federal funds which may be available by 2014.
- Curb and gutter repair projects are determined through a site-specific evaluation. They are typically very expensive and very few projects need both street and curb and gutter repair.
- Moorhead’s 40th Avenue South and 8th Street pedestrian underpass is currently on hold for the Winter months. The City is currently negotiating with the contractor for a new completion date. Guard rail is not currently included in the plan per the Mn/DOT design guidelines.
- In the past, City policy has traditionally delayed assessments until after project completion. Council could change this practice and assess 2010 projects in 2011. The benefit would be reduced carrying costs to the City for the extra year. The detriment would be that the project may not be fully completed at the time public hearings are held, but there may be a greater financial benefit to the City by changing its current practice.

Zimmerman requested that Council indicate to Staff any strong desires to deviate from the “2010-2014 Pavement Management and Transportation Improvement Plan” as presented. If the Council does not support any one of the projects, City staff would like to be made aware of that as soon as possible so as to prevent further investment of time designing and planning that project. It was noted that there is a seven vote requirement to move construction projects forward.

Redlinger passed out a “Total Debt to Maturity” handout detailing debt schedule information for the City of Moorhead between Years 2010 to 2033. Redlinger stated that City staff intends to provide the Mayor and Council with good quality data to make informed decisions and wisely direct resources to prioritized projects. Council will be tasked to think strategically about dealing with resource constraints and balance that with necessary City services and maintenance.

3. [City Manager Reports](#)

Minutes: Legal announcements will soon be published on the City's website.

The "National League of Cities: Congressional City Conference" is scheduled for March 13-17, 2010. Mayor Voxland suggested moving the Committee of the Whole meeting originally scheduled for March 15, 2010 to a different date to accommodate attendance at the Conference.

On Monday, February 1 the Council will plan to tour the Rourke Art Museum and Moorhead Public Library.

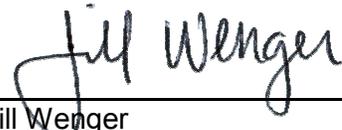
4. [Executive Session - Labor Negotiations Update](#)

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:



Mark Voxland
Mayor



Jill Wenger
City Clerk

The proceedings of this meeting are digitally recorded and are available for public review.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jill Wenger, City Clerk