

**City of Moorhead  
Committee of the Whole  
Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 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 February 16, 2010, at 5:30 PM.

**Roll call of the members was made as follows:**

1st Ward Council Member:	Luther Stueland	Present
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	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Brenda Elmer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Mark Hintermeyer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Greg Lemke	Present
Mayor:	Mark Voxland	Absent

**Committee of the Whole Meeting**

1. [Clay County Public Health Presentation: Active In Moorhead \(AIM\), Cass Clay Healthy People Initiative \(CCHPI\), & the Statewide Health Improvement Program \(SHIP\)](#)

Minutes: Keely Hyland, AIM Project Manager at Clay County Public Health, spoke about the AIM Program. AIM is a partnership between Clay County Public Health, the City of Moorhead, and Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG). It is a active living program that integrates physical activity into everyday life through community design.

Rory Beil, Director of Cass Clay Healthy People Initiative with the Dakota Medical Foundation, spoke about several priority projects of the initiative including the "GoFar Childcare" Program and "Streets Alive!" Program.

Gina Nolte, Clay County Public Health, spoke about the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). It is a project designed to help Minnesotans live longer, healthier lives by preventing risk factors that lead to chronic disease. Locally, the program is concentrating on "Comprehensive Worksites Wellness Interventions" at Moorhead Public Schools.

Council Members suggested the following:

- Including area college campus students to participate in local programming and events.
- Considering more healthy vending options at the Sports Center.
- Working with school representatives regarding vending and related open campus issues.
- Utilizing the City's website to promote healthy living options at public facilities.

## 2. [Proposed Animal Ordinances/Discussion](#)

Minutes: Michael Redlinger, City Manager, stated that this topic was first brought before the Council in August 2009. Redlinger stated that today's discussion would allow the Council to determine their priorities regarding animal control ordinances. Redlinger added that David Ebinger, Moorhead Police Chief, was present to answer questions and clarify issues related to ordinance enforceability.

Chief Ebinger clarified the following for Council:

- Moorhead PD licensed 550 dogs and 89 cats in 2009.
- Two Community Service Officers respond to animal control problems among other duties. They have the ability to impound animals and issue some citations.
- The Clay County Attorney has stated that he will not proceed with prosecuting animal control ordinances unless it violates a Minnesota State Statute, such as animal cruelty or neglect.
- An "Administrative Hearing" process would be required to handle other animal ordinance violations, which would incur a significant cost to the City.
- The department is looking to utilize Moorhead Police Explorers and volunteers to encourage animal licensing.

Redlinger stated that fees collected for animal ordinance violations are not dedicated to a specific budget fund area and the amount of revenue received is very limited.

Council Members recommended the following:

- Licensing requirement for use of the dog park;
- Vendor's license for selling or giving away animals;
- Ordinance for transporting animals;
- Disincentive for those with an unlicensed pet;
- Multiple year option for animal registration;
- Lifetime animal registration with micro-chipping;
- Ongoing proof of rabies inoculation; and
- Encouraging animal licensing through public education and promotion.

## 3. [City Manager Reports](#)

Minutes: **Legislative Update: Proposed Local Government Aid Reductions**

Redlinger stated that Governor Pawlenty recently announced his proposal to cut 2010 Local Government Aid (LGA) funding in Moorhead by \$1.253 million and further reduce LGA in 2011. As proposed, the City would need to utilize the General Reserve Fund to balance the 2010 budget. Redlinger stated that the Council will be involved in further discussion regarding revenue options as additional information develops in the coming months at the Legislature regarding LGA reductions.

The City of Moorhead will need to retain an adequate General Fund Reserve balance, particularly in the instance of a flood event. General Fund Reserves

are used for pre-authorized flood preparation efforts and there can be significant lag time for reimbursement even when Emergency Declarations are made. Redlinger added that the City of Moorhead consistently receives a good bond rating because of its commitment to a healthy General Fund Reserve policy.

City Council suggested that City staff:

- Develop options as quickly as possible to address the potential \$1.253 million cut to Moorhead's 2010 LGA allocation;
- Maintain a healthy General Reserve Fund balance; and
- Consider collaboration possibilities wherever possible.

Redlinger stated that following the 2009 Financial Audit process, City staff will be working to address cuts to LGA and start to develop the 2011 Operating and Capital Budget. Staff will be thinking creatively to provide as many as options as possible to the Mayor and Council.

Cities affected by cuts to LGA will be working together to address this issue at the Minnesota State Legislature to make the case that a balanced approach is needed. The City of Moorhead has already reduced its overall budget by \$2.1 million dollars and has put a freeze on wages for the past two years for its Management and Professional employees.

### **Flood Preparation & Planning**

Redlinger stated that City staff plan to bring forward a pre-authorization to utilize General Fund Reserves for the purchase of supplies and equipment in case of a spring flood event. These costs may or may not be reimbursed by the federal government, since they would be spent well in advance of an Emergency Declaration and potential Presidential Disaster Declaration. However, these expenditures are necessary to adequately prepare in advance of a potential flood event.

Council Member Otto stated that the Metro Flood Study Work Group continues to meet each Thursday. She encouraged attendance at as many meetings as possible to better understand the diversion projects under consideration. There will be a short time frame for decision-making once the study is fully completed. It will be important to meet the 2011 deadline to propose a Water Bill in Congress.

Council Member Hintermeyer stated that he would like the Moorhead City Council to formalize some decisions on the project that are in the best interest of the City of Moorhead. Council Member Wray Williams stated that this important decision needs to be determined collectively by both sides of the river so that there can be a unified community decision.

Redlinger stated that Brigadier General Walsh of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Mississippi Valley Division Command, Vicksburg, MS) will be attending the Metro Flood Study Work Group meeting on February 25.

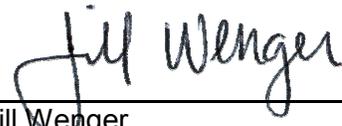
APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:



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Mark Voxland  
Mayor



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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*