

**City of Moorhead  
Committee of the Whole  
Meeting Minutes  
September 07, 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 September 07, 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	Present

**Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Minutes: Mayor Voxland called the meeting to order.

1. [20th St/I-94 Interchange Project Discussion](#)

Minutes: Bob Zimmerman, City Engineer, stated that Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) District 4 staff has identified the 20<sup>th</sup> St/I-94 Interchange Project as a potential candidate for a State of Minnesota Interchange Account Appropriation. These funds would incur a 50% match requirement. Match funds can come from other State, Federal, or local sources. The project must incorporate public-private partnerships. Initial applications are due in September. If selected, final applications are due in December which would need to identify the source(s) of matching funds.

Shiloh Wahl, Mn/DOT District 4 Planning Director and City staff clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- Full Federal funding for a project of this magnitude would be a challenge. City staff has determined that targeted special assessments could generate enough local funds to provide the required match.
- If the project proceeds, other local projects could be delayed. The City would prioritize street preservation projects versus reconstruction and rehabilitation.
- Mn/DOT has agreed to conduct the engineering services for this project which will represent a significant savings to the City.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue South (20<sup>th</sup> Street to 26<sup>th</sup> Street) will be realigned if the project proceeds. This would include right-of-way acquisition.

- The City will consider the geographical area to be assessed and will need to justify the benefit to assessed properties.

The Mayor and Council Members noted the following:

- Information regarding past and future special assessments should be carefully considered before the payment district is finalized. Construction may be such a nature that it benefits the entire community.
- The City should pursue this funding source as a possibility.

## 2. [Sandbag Production & Storage Facility Discussion](#)

Minutes: Michael Redlinger, City Manager, and Bob Zimmerman, City Engineer, provided a brief report on plans for a potential sandbag production and storage facility.

City staff clarified the following in response to Mayor and Council questions:

- A facility is proposed at the Wastewater facility due to the fact that it is City-owned, has adequate parking facilities, and access to main corridors of the City.
- A facility would serve a multipurpose use for additional equipment storage space. Equipment stored at this facility could be deployed more rapidly in any City emergency.
- A Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) General Permit held by the City requires that materials currently stored outside in open roll-off containers be moved to a location that is not exposed to precipitation. The sandbag production/storage facility could be used for this purpose.
- There is not sufficient space in current City-owned buildings to provide for adequate sandbag storage. Private market storage space does not appear to be readily available as an alternative.
- The City's Pole Barn Building, used as the sandbag production facility during the 2010 flood, created equipment displacement requiring warm storage as well as parking and safety concerns.
- City staff will further research the possibility of the City renting from itself during a flood event in order to access FEMA declaration reimbursement.
- Cost estimates would be further refined following design. Funding of the facility could be financed through the following enterprise funds: Stormwater Utility Fund, Wastewater Treatment Fund, and Sanitation Fund. The City would not propose a rate increase for these fees.
- This facility is not identified as a DNR Flood Mitigation Project. City

staff could inquire if the facility would be eligible in future requests.

- A facility would not be in place in the event of a 2011 spring flood.
- Previous City policy did not provide for private sandbag production; however this policy changed during the 2009 flood event.
- Due to completed flood Mitigation Projects, City infrastructure does not require sandbags. Sandbag dikes constructed in a flood event protect private property only.
- Extensive private property flooding can affect the City's sanitary sewer system.
- Under current Minnesota State Law, a special assessment district cannot be positioned on private property owners who receive sandbags.

The Mayor and Council Members noted the following:

- Concern was noted regarding the expense of this facility at a time when the City is looking to build permanent flood protection, other City facilities have been successfully utilized in the past, and the community has come together in less desirable locations and conditions.
- An indoor sandbag production facility is desirable for volunteer retention. Adequate bathroom facilities and break rooms could also be considered in the facility's design.
- It is wise to have all sandbag production equipment and storage co-located.
- Concern was noted regarding the City's current policy in providing sandbags for private property owners.
- A clear policy for private property sandbag production needs to be determined and articulated to residents.

The Mayor and City Council determined that a policy discussion regarding the City's position on providing sandbags for private property owners is warranted at the September 20, 2010 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

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

Minutes: Michael Redlinger, City Manager, stated that he is seeking a Moorhead City Council representative to serve on an ad hoc group looking to extend the Heartland Trail through Becker and Clay Counties. The representative would serve in an advisory role along with other Clay County officials.

Redlinger provided a brief overview on the Committee of the Whole topics

currently scheduled through the end of 2010. Redlinger requested feedback regarding the prioritization of these items.

At the request of the Mayor and City Council, Redlinger will:

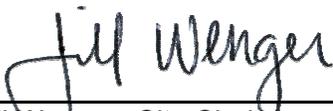
- Prioritize budget discussions.
- Continue to schedule a Campus Area Parking Discussion and Facsimile Weapons Ordinance Discussion this fall.
- Arrange the Rental Registration Program Overview and Vacant Building Designation Fees Discussion to take place later in the year.
- Plan a Council Retreat Workshop to discuss Municipal Property and plan for a Developer's Tour in 2011.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

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*