

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
JUNE 26, 2012
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Eric Peterson called the "Public Hearing" of the Wyoming City Council for June 26, 2012 to order at 7:04 P.M.

CALL OF ROLL:

On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming City Council were present: Councilmembers Eric Peterson, Roger Elmore, Linda Nanko/Yeager, Joe Zerwas and Steve Zerwas.

Absent: None

Additional staff present: Fred Weck-Building Official, Dennis Berry-Fire Chief, Jason Windingstad-Public Works Superintendent, Paul Hoppe-Police Chief, Bruce Schwartzman-Architect-BKV Group, Mark Vierling-City Attorney-Eckberg Lammers, Andy Pratt-Eckberg Lammers, Craig Mattson-City Administrator, Nicole Miller-Administrative Assistant.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

The Mayor determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PRESENTATION:

City Administrator Craig Mattson, Bruce Schwartzman-Architect-BKV Group, and Police Chief Paul Hoppe presented the City of Wyoming 2011 Strategic Plan, needs assessment and proposal done by BKV Group to remodel the Riverbank building to accommodate City Hall and the construction/remodel of Public Safety Facility at the current city hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT-

Darrel Vincent-268th St-Has questions about tax costs to residents if city were to move forward with the purchase of the Riverbank building and remodeling of current City Hall into Public Safety Facility.

Bob Bohnen-7323 Lake Blvd- Wondered what the costs per income per family for Wyoming is compared to other cities.

Chris Kuehn-25914 Granada Ave.-Wondered if the council has heard from other residents that are in support this project.

Mayor Peterson-Has spoken to residents and explained project and the majority of the resident's he has spoke to are in support of the project.

Ben Daugherty-26462 Fenwick-Believes this is the time to buy, in the past councils have made decisions that cost less money for the residents compared to if the council had waited. Believes city should take this opportunity now.

Jerry Owens-25717 Gramford Ave-If we pay now we will get the building at a better interest rate than if we wait a few years.

Mike Standridge-26811 Friesland Ave-Questioned what the cost is to remove drive thru area at the Riverbank. Wondered where the money was spent to remodel the current Police Department.

Administrator Mattson-There is no plan to remove the drive thru at the Riverbank building that area would most likely be used for employee parking.

Police Chief Hoppe-When the current Police Department was remodeled the money was spent on cold storage, impound lot, addition on 3 stall garage and the interior of building had to remodeled as well as the parking lot was asphalted.

Steve Sichenater-6201 266th Ct-Feels that in the past the residents' tax dollars have been prioritized poorly. Questioned figures in presentation regarding resident taxes for Wyoming compared to peer groups. Wondered what the residents tax dollars are paying for. Doesn't believe the fire department is unsafe and questioned how much of the new Public Safety building will be for the fire department also has concerns about the remodeling the current police department for public works if the police move.

Wyoming Resident 6842 270th-Doesn't believe the city should take Riverbank building off the tax rolls and lose revenue. Doesn't believe the city should purchase the Riverbank building.

Dan Babbit-26220 Glen Oak Dr-Questioned projected growth of population of the city, doesn't believe projected growth is obtainable. Wondered what the city is working on to bring more businesses into Wyoming. Feels residents in Wyoming are over taxed.

Mayor Peterson, Bruce Schwartzman-BKV Group and Police Chief Hoppe-Explained that the proposed new Public Safety Facility is a reasonable size to accommodate growth and explained the fire department's portion of the building.

Cheri Vincent-5844 268th St-Questioned the city's strategic plan and what is the city doing to market the city and to bring businesses to Wyoming.

Duane Halverson-Represents Credit Union that would like to buy the Riverbank building.

Ken Anderson-Industrial Park-Doesn't believe commercial taxes are reasonable in Wyoming. Believes we may need bigger facilities once more people come to Wyoming but the city should wait until the population grows.

Jerry Owens-EDA is trying to fill vacant position and would like residents consider joining the EDA.

Rodney Hestekin-26811 Freeport Ct-Current city hall building was built without tax dollars and constructed in a way that could be added on to for expansion. Doesn't believe it is the right time for this project even though it might cost the residents more money in the future. Has concerns about businesses in Wyoming.

Tom Terry-26752 Freeport Ct-Believes the city should focus on needs such as the roads and not wants.

Mark Lobermeier-25124 Firefly Ave-Believes the timing is right now to move forward with this project, supports the plan.

Judy Coughlin-8161 Pioneer Road-Questioned if the city is currently renting out space for public works. Had questions about tax rates for residents located in the former Township as related to the tax rate for residents located in the former city. Believes now is a good time for this project, space is tight and cramped. As a member of the Planning Commission Fairview is doing an expansion and part of Fairview is taxed. EDA and Planning Commissions have opening and are volunteer positions and should not be treated poorly. Employees in city work hard and long hours and should be appreciated.

Administrator Mattson-The city is not currently renting space for public works. Explained how the taxes of the former Township will increase to match the city base rate. 60 percent last year, seventy percent in 2013 and then 100 percent, Xccent and Polaris will help balance out tax base for everyone when they begin paying taxes on their buildings in 2014.

Dennis Williams-6452 264th-Questioned when is the right time to buy anything, and believes there is never a good time, but this is what the city needs.

Bob Bohnen-7323 Lake Blvd-Believes city is going through growing pains, and is concerned about the value of property in Wyoming.

Lisa Iverson-25675 Goodwin Road-Questioned whether the \$2.5 million bond could now be used for remodeling of the Public Safety Facility to contain City Hall also since there may be someone interested in purchasing the Riverbank building.

Neil Gatzow-5481 E Viking Blvd-Believes the reason the city grew in the past was because land and gas were cheap. Does not believe the projected population growth due high gas prices. Believes the city does not need new facilities.

Brian Burdock-Questioned Inquired about some of the instances that have happened in the past couple of years that made is hard for Public Safety to do their job. What other options have been discussed for a new Public Safety Facility. Wondered if the city has explored buying and selling the Riverbank building for profit or considered renting out any of the space.

Police Chief Hoppe-Addressed current shortfalls of the Current Police Department building. If this opportunity would have existed before the city would have considered this then. Currently remodeling costs are cheaper than new construction.

Administrator Mattson-The city hasn't discussed thoroughly other options if the Riverbank building is not available. The Riverbank building would be an investment for the city and meet the need of future growths. Property located by the Riverbank building also was discussed for future development for Community Center someday.

Nancy Spangler-5983 258th St-Concerned if the city were to keep facilities the way they are would there be the potential that employees may leave due to the work environment. Also had concerns about the environment police are in processing evidence.

Police Chief Hoppe-Currently the city hasn't had employees leave due to their work environment but it remains the Department heads responsibility to address issues before they happen.

Bruce Schwartzman-BKV Group-In order to maintain current City Hall and current Police Department facilities there will be costs associated with maintaining existing structures.

John Bergum 26345 Fenwick Ave-Believes city should let another business buy the Riverbank building.

Kettle River Blvd Resident-Question what the costs are to remodel city hall to incorporate public safety facility and city hall. Doesn't believe city facilities are easy to find and city should make the town look better.

Police Chief Hoppe-The city is evaluating potential expansion at current city hall site to accommodate Public Safety and City Hall and while doing so keeping visions of future growth of the city in mind. Riverbank building offers the opportunity for future expansion due to land around the building.

Jean Will-Supports the purchase of the Riverbank building, believes other cities are worse off than Wyoming.

Wyoming Resident-Believes that the police evidence room is a potential for police to lose cases in court.

Matt Engstrom 5484 E Viking Blvd-Questioned how the process of a reverse referendum works.

Mark Vierling-City Attorney-Explained the process for reverse referendum and that the petition needs to be filed within 30 days, 5% of the people that voted at the last regular election that signs the proper petition than it goes to referendum vote.

Mike Standridge 26811 Friesland Ave-Believes officers shouldn't be cleaning their weapons where they currently are. Believes the streets are in terrible shape.

Nancy Bergum-Oak Point Business Center-Concerned about government getting increase in wages and private business owners are not making any more money and believes taxes are too high.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER J.ZERWAS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE, TO CLOSE THE "PUBLIC HEARING" REGARDING AMENDING THE FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS.

Voting Aye: Elmore, Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, Zerwas and Zerwas

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Public Hearing Closed at 9:05pm

Councilmember S.Zerwas expressed that the council has a duty to listen to all residents and he believes this makes sense.

Councilmember J.Zerwas believes the city needs new facilities.

Councilmember Nanko/Yeager expressed opposition to this project. Has concerns about Wyoming's business community and the EDA is working on business community. Has questions about projected population growth. Concerned about adding additional taxes to tax payers and how the city will be able to afford future projects.

Mayor Peterson-Believes current interest rates make this the right time for the project.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER S.ZERWAS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ELMORE, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 12-06-38 ADOPTING A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND PROVIDING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS IN A MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$2,500,000.

Voting Aye: Elmore, Peterson, Zerwas and Zerwas

Voting Nay: Nanko/Yeager

Abstain: None

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER NANKO/YEAGER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER J.ZERWAS, TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 26, 2012 "PUBLIC HEARING" OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA CITY COUNCIL AT 9:17 P.M.

Voting Aye: Elmore, Nanko/Yeager, Peterson, J. Zerwas and S. Zerwas

Voting Nay: None
Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted
Nicole Miller, Administrative Assistant