

COUNCIL RETREAT – MARCH 15, 2011

The Council Retreat was held on March 15, 2011 in the Conference Room at the Municipal Airport-Ryan Field, Highway 19 West. The retreat was called to order by Mayor Byrnes. In addition to Byrnes, the following members were present: Hulsizer, Doom, Sanow, DeCramer, Boedigheimer and Ritter. Absent: none. Staff present included: Ben Martig, City Administrator; Glenn Olson, Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Harry Weilage, Director of Community Services; Marc Klaith, Fire Chief and Cathy Lee, Administrative Assistant. Others in attendance included: Aaron Zimmer, Marshall Radio and Deb Gau, Marshall Independent.

PHASE II MEMORIAL PARK CONSTRUCTION – 9/11 MEMORIAL AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE:

Ben Martig, City Administrator, reviewed the timelines, event planning, construction timelines, budget and pledges to date. Harry Weilage, Director of Community Services, presented the layout of Memorial Park. 3000 pavers with black stars will identify the people who lost their lives on 9-11. Pavers with blue stars will represent the police officers and pavers with red stars will represent the fire department/ EMTS individuals who lost their lives. The park will have six planters similar to Liberty Park with an Old Glory Flag at the entrance with a flag pole being donated by the Legion and the VFW. There will be no flowers this summer. They may have flowers after construction completion for the event, dependent on price and availability. Next year the Girl Scouts and Schwan's will be filling the planters. Mr. Weilage explained the beam they received from the World Trade Center is a 14 foot beam. The light that will be coming out of the top of the beam will have a strong lighted beam emanating into the air. Marc Klaith, Fire Chief, indicated that he was very proud of this project and he felt it would be something that the citizens will value in the future. Council Member Sanow asked about Phase III. Councilmember Hulsizer expressed her dissatisfaction with more accurate budget figures not being presented prior to authorizing purchases for the project. She clarified that she is supportive of the project. Glenn Olson, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, indicated that the electrical system will be buried underground now since the 100 trees will have lights on them and will be on during the holiday season. There is a special events area included for the Farmers Market, Art Events, etc. The council asked for the cost of Phase I. Mr. Martig said he would find out what that number was and report back to the council.

EXISTING LIBRARY RE-USE DISCUSSION:

The next item for discussion was the existing library building at 301 West Lyon Street. Council Member Hulsizer indicated that the construction is currently two months behind on the new library. Ms. Hulsizer indicated that this could change when the weather changes and they can work on it more. The discussion was on whether the City should sell or lease the library. Council Member Ritter and Council Member Boedigheimer indicated that it should be sold. One of the concerns that Boedigheimer has is that there is limited parking in the area. Several potential private reuses for the library include office, retail, mixed use or housing apartments. Many concerns with housing apartments arose; they felt that plumbing would be an issue. Other interested parties include non-profit/government reuses; Lyon County Museum, Non-profit, EDA/Chamber/CVB, Business Incubator. The council did not feel leasing would be an option because that would be in direct conflict with the private sector. Some interest was addressed from the Historical Society in purchasing the building. There was a consensus to issue a Request for Proposals. Martig will start the process.

2011 EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENTS:

The City Recognition/Appreciation Event was discussed. City Administrator Martig indicated that this event was well received from employees and thought we should keep this event. The summer picnic is also another event that he wanted to hold this year. Mr. Martig explained that this event is not very costly. The city purchases the meat and drinks, the employees bring a dish to pass.

Mr. Martig asked the council for their ideas on the volunteer/appreciation event. Mr. Martig indicated that the attendance at the breakfast was always very poor. Last year we tried to have it before the SMSU parade; but wasn't well attended either. Martig indicated that National Volunteer Week is April 10 -16, 2011 and that the City could do something during that time. Council Member Sanow indicated that the breakfast is not good timing and agreed that the parade was confusing with the co-location tent with SMSU. Sanow felt we would get better results with an evening meal. Sanow indicated he could cater the meal at \$5.50 per plate which includes the meat, potatoes, vegetables, dessert and beverage. He suggested that the council serve the meal. Boedigheimer indicated that April would not be enough time to put anything together. We may want to

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leave it to October if we do a meal. It was suggested that we take pictures of each of the boards/commission members and put them in the paper. Lee will check on the cost; there may not be a cost to do this. Ben Martig also suggested that council liaisons thank the volunteers during the month of April at the board meeting. Nothing was finalized regarding the volunteer recognition for Boards and Commissions for 2011.

OTHER – FLOOD PREPARATION SUMMARY:

Flooding was the next issue on the agenda. Glenn Olson, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, provided a summary of the local flooding conditions. Mr. Olson indicated that there are two types of flooding: 1) flooding from the river. He is not currently concerned with flooding from the river, but that can change overnight. It all depends on the rain or a fast snow melt. 2) Internal flooding. There can be several reasons for internal flooding; snow pack around the home, neighbors run off, sump pump system, or sump pump failure. Mayor Byrnes indicated that the city could have flooding as early as this weekend. Neighborhood flooding is the biggest concern right now and sewer back-up. 17.5 feet is considered major stage flooding. Byrnes said last year in September when Marshall had flooding, the highest it ever reached was 17.09 and that was the highest level ever in the history of Marshall. If that would happen again, then the city would declare a state of emergency. The river projections are at 16.8, so it is not as high as it was in September, 2010.


Mr. Martig explained to the council that the Mayor declares the State of Emergency. After 72 hours the council is then called together for a special meeting to discuss the issues. If the Mayor is not available then President ProTem Boedigheimer declares the State of Emergency.

Mr. Martig updated the council on the status of the state budget and impacts of LGA and MVC funding.

Mr. Olson and Mr. Martig updated the council on plans for on-street bike lanes to be painted. The City has been allocated grant monies to fund the cost of materials.

Mayor Byrnes informed the group that at 2:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 the Minnesota census data will be released to the media. The information went to the Governor on Tuesday, March 15th and then it is released the next day.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Mayor of the City of Marshall

ATTEST:



City Administrator