

**JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE
CITY, TOWNSHIP, SCHOOL DISTRICT, SHERBURNE COUNTY BOARDS
JANUARY 11, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Orrock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

City Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, Patricia May, and Mayor Don Orrock.

Big Lake Township Board Members present: Mike Hayes, Norm Leslie, David Quinn, and Chair Jim Sanford. Town Board Members Absent: Larry Alfords.

Orrock Township Board Member present: Jeff Nagorski. No other Orrock Township Board Members were present.

School Board Members present: Bruce Aubol, Cindy Harjes, Chair Tim Hayes, Kevin Phillippe, David Reines, and Tim Stockstead.

Sherburne County Board Members present: Ewald Petersen. No other County Board Members were in attendance.

Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Finance Director Corey Boyer, Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares, City Engineer Brad DeWolf from Bolton & Menk, Township Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Township Clerk Laura Hayes, Township Deputy Clerk Kristy Woolard, Sherburne County Public Works Director John Menter, Sherburne County Attorney Kathleen Heaney, Sherburne County Administrator Brian Benson, Sherburne County Deputy Administrator Lucy Botzek, Sherburne County Zoning Administrator Nancy Riddle, and RoxAnne Weidner from ISD #727.

4. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Heitz motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

5. BUSINESS

5A. County Topics

John Menter updated the Boards on the status of the County Road 17/81 project, discussed project delays, and indicated that they have made progress in finalizing the designs. The County has been in negotiations with the railroad and funding options have been reviewed. Mr. Menter indicated that they are hoping Phase I and II of this project will be completed this year. Mr. Menter also reviewed various City/County projects including the Hwy 10/CR 5 intersection improvements, CR 68 (Ormsbee) improvements, and the Long-Range Transportation Plan. The Boards discussed possible future improvements to State Highway 25, the East/West Corridor, and County Road 11.

Mayor Orrock discussed recent commercial projects that have occurred in the County and asked that the City be contacted on these types of projects in the future. Brian Benson explained that the County would encourage joint planning efforts between the City and Township.

Mr. Benson also discussed the possible formation of a County EDA that would consist of approximately 11 members. County Administration will be visiting various EDA Boards throughout Sherburne County to discuss this new County Board.

5B. Township Topics

Big Lake Town Board Chair Jim Sanford reviewed recorded lot totals and current vacant lots in Big Lake Township. Chair Sanford also reviewed the possible expansion of the Industrial Park land jointly owned by the City and Township, and reviewed the East/West Corridor project status.

5C. School Topics

School Board Member David Reines discussed topics reviewed by their Long-Range Planning Committee and informed the Boards that the school district still has growth issues, especially in the Middle School. Mr. Reines discussed possible future bonding for another school in the District and reviewed potential issues with finding a location for a new site that could be serviced by City utilities. Council Member Heitz suggested the City and the

School District work cooperatively in the purchase of property along Highway 25 near the site of the proposed athletic complex. Discussion was held on this area being located in the Monticello School District and the viability of changing school district boundaries. The School Board indicated they would need at least a 100 acre site to accommodate a new school site.

Kathleen Heaney reviewed the status of drug/meth incidents in Sherburne County and indicated that they have seen a decline, especially in the number of lab busts. Ms. Heaney commended pro-active law enforcement, along with laws requiring relocation of specific over-the-counter medications, as reasons for these declines.

5D. City Topics

Mayor Orrock reviewed possible improvements to the corridor along Highway 25, and reviewed the proposed annexation of the Cobblestone Crossing site. Discussion was held on the Wild and Scenic River comments on the potential DNR revisions to the Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Mayor Orrock also informed the Boards that the jointly owned Big Lake Industrial Park East is full and that the project has been a good investment of the City and Townships time and resources. The City and Township will continue to seek out additional land for expansion of the Industrial Park.

6. OTHER

Brian Benson introduced the new Deputy County Administrator, Lucy Botzek. Discussion was also held on the Met Council and the status of the Northstar Commuter Rail project. Council Member Heitz discussed a possible Northstar presentation in the future and stressed the importance of the Boards recognizing the impact this project will have on the Big Lake area and Sherburne County, and that proper planning is critical. Commissioner Petersen reviewed the recent Northstar meeting and the status of the project.

Orrock Township Supervisor Nagorski updated the Boards on the status of their Industrial Park.

7. ADJOURN

Council Member Heitz motioned to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
City Clerk

Date Approved by the Big Lake City Council

01/24/07