

# Adopted Minutes Special Council Meeting April 28, 2009

A Special Meeting was conducted by the City Council on April 28, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Millennium Garden, 14800 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, and the Medicine Lake Conference Room, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Slavik, Councilmembers Johnson, Murdock, Willis, Black, Stein, and Bildsoe.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ahrens, Park and Recreation Director Blank, Administrative Services Director Portner, Police Chief Goldstein, Fire Chief Kline, Community Development Director Juetten, and City Clerk Engdahl.

## Dedication of Artwork at Millennium Garden

The Mayor and Council participated in the dedication of the Winged Iris sculpture at the Millennium Garden.

## Preliminary Budget Discussion

Administrative Services Director Porter discussed staff's report which contained projected revenues and expenditures forecasts for 2010. He requested that the Council provide direction for the general fund 2010 levy, which will be used for budget preparation.

Councilmember Bildsoe requested that staff look at internal structural changes that are long-term. Secondly, he suggested that there be incremental tax increases (1%-2%) each year versus a large increase in 2011. Councilmember Stein agreed but requested that there be as little increase as possible in 2010 due to the economy.

Councilmembers Willis and Murdock stated any tax increase would be problematic for residents. Councilmember Black requested a minimal tax increase as did Mayor Slavik. Councilmember Black stated she is very concerned about the number of layoffs that may be needed.

Councilmember Willis asked about the status of the labor contracts. City Manager Ahrens replied the public works and the technical/professional unions settled for a 2% increase in 2009 and a 2% increase in 2010. A 2% increase for non-represented employees was approved in 2009. The police contracts are open for 2010. The police have received higher settlements than all other groups the past couple of years.

The Council directed the City Manager to do the following and budget accordingly:

1. Request to reopen the labor contracts with the public works and clerical/technical unions and propose a 0% increase in 2010.
2. Budget a 0% increase for non-represented employees for 2010.
3. Negotiate a 0% increase for police for 2010.

The Council indicated this is a prudent and necessary measure given the economy. It will help reduce the number of layoffs that may be necessary in 2010 and 2011, in order to meet levy limits and limit the tax increase.

### **Set Future Study Sessions**

Mayor Slavik stated this item would be added to the Regular Council meeting agenda this evening.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Slavik adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

  
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Sandra R. Engdahl, City Clerk