

**MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING – WORKING SESSION**

JUNE 17, 2014

Mayor Jeff Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Kay McDaniel, Donovan Mayer, Jean Soine, and Gene Beavers. Ashley Peck, Press and Paul Evans, Cenex were also in attendance.

CENEX PROPOSAL

Mergen reported on the offer from the Farmer's Union Co-op to purchase the Public Works Department shop and storage shed. The interest in the City's property is due to the location to the Fertilizer Plant. A land option would be by the Ambulance Garage. The City would have to do a lot split to retain the storm water pond. This would not be a quick process (2 to 5 years). Mergen will continue to research costs and land options associated with this proposal.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS LAYOUT

Mayer reported on the status of the Council Chambers redesign. The raised platform would be removed and the Council seating area would be moved out 1 foot. There would be two 2 feet removable wings and the podium would be near the west exit door. The screen would be removed. The Council consented on proceeding with bids.

CENTER FOR SMALL TOWNS

Thompson reported on the report the University of Minnesota Morris presented at the Mayor's Conference regarding debunking; the idea that small towns are dying. The biggest problem that was presented was housing. The people that are relocating are interested in condo and low maintenance housing. Communities that can adapt will thrive and increase in population. There is also a need to have amenities. The Council discussed grants for housing. The University of Minnesota Morris has interns that can come and assist the City on projects like this. The City of Richfield did a mini session and the concept that Pat Flanders presented last night fits into this plan. It was discussed that generally where you live is where you spend your money.

The Planning Commission is working on a housing study. Tri-CAP is interested in writing another Small Cities Grant to help with more improvements. The Council discussed a private/public partnership to accomplish these housing projects.

LIQUOR STORE PROPOSAL

Eckerly reported on the work Bill Ludwig and she had put together regarding square footage needs. There is 91,000 square feet in pavement and grass as common area. The Credit Union could give the City a loan. The project would cost approximately \$37,800.00 per year. The Council discussed stepping back and looking at all the City's needs. The Council further discussed strategic planning as an option.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.