



**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**September 1, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The work session meeting was called to order by City Administrator Post at 5:36 pm.

**Present:** Council: Brian Carpenter, Sharon Henderson, Liz Olson, and Sam Rettinger  
(note that Carpenter arrived at 5:47 pm)

**Staff Present:** City Administrator: Terrance Post

**Guests:** City Gateway Landscaping Project Engineer Brady Halverson

**Absence:** Mayor Randy Gilbert (excused)

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Olson, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.*

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Discussion of Gateway Landscaping Project**

Engineer Halverson gave his assessment of the project status. He believed that the current appearance is not what he would have expected from a fall 2008 planting. His recommendation was not to "start over" as current growth has largely eliminated soil erosion concerns on the steep slope. He also believed that additional work by the contractor during September (mowing, herbicide application, spot reseeding, and watering) should result in the desired appearance in 2010. Halverson committed to holding the contractor to a specific fall action plan and communicating results to the City Administrator. The project will be reevaluated after the spring 2010 growing season.

**Discussion of 2010 Preliminary Budget and Levy**

City Administrator Post shared a "Combined Debt and Operating Levy Impacts" schedule that highlighted various operating levy increase breakpoints. The Council indicated general consensus with a 3.0% (\$25,691) operating levy increase which would result in an overall levy increase of .93%.

Regarding the budget, Post shared a September 1, 2009 email offer to provide 2010 police protection services for a reduced fee of \$345,000 (2010 total would be \$388,369) from the City of Orono. Post noted that the 2009 fee was \$302,177 and that the \$345,000 amount would represent a \$42,823 or 14.2% increase. Post also indicated that the 2010 preliminary budget contained \$308,220 (a 2.0% increase) for this expenditure line item. Council discussion included the timing of the offer, the amount of increase, the formula allocation factor changes, and the role of the Police Advisory Committee. Council consensus was to direct the City Administrator to advise the City of Orono of the rejection of this offer. Councilmember Olson requested that the City Administrator provide council members with a copy of the current police protection services contract.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Post advised the Council that an August 31, 2009 claim denial response from Travelers had been received by City Attorney Thomas Scott in regards to the TH 12 Watermain Repair Project. Attorney Scott advised the City Administrator that the Council proceed with awarding the watermain repair contract in that no mention of preserving evidentiary material (i.e. the leaky joint gasket) in the problem location was mentioned in the denial letter. Councilmember Carpenter commented that the initial claim denial was not entirely unexpected and that the City should continue to aggressively pursue the claim with Travelers.

**ADJOURN**

Hearing no objection, City Administrator Post adjourned the work session meeting by general consent at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terrance Post, City Administrator