BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 15, 2010

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Tim Lies led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER. 2.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Government Center, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN. Mayor Tim Lies called the meeting to order with Councilmembers Dawn Underferth, Jim Lange, Gary Trost, Tim O'Laughlin and Cary Coop present.

Also present were City Administrator David Murphy, Community Development Director Trisha Rosenfeld, Public Works Superintendent Al Fahey, Finance Director Dawn Meyer, Police Chief Tom Stolee, City Engineer Joe Duncan, City Attorneys Bob Vose and Julie Eddington, and Video Recording Operator Beth Dempsey.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Councilmember Trost, second by Councilmember O'Laughlin, to approve the agenda as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.

4.1. Work Session Minutes of February 22, 2010.
4.2. Regular Session Minutes of March 1, 2010.
4.3. Accepting 2009 Annual Planning Report.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Underferth, to approve the consent agenda as follows: 4.1. Work Session Minutes of February 22, 2010, 4.2. Regular Session Minutes of March 1, 2010 and 4.3. Accepting 2009 Annual Planning Report. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

5.1. Ambulance Department.

Ridgeview Ambulance Manager Doug Sweeney was unable to attend. The Council acknowledged receipt of the Ambulance Department report.

5.2. Fire Department.

Fire Chief Randy Koepp was unable to attend. The Council acknowledged receipt of the Fire Department report.

5.3. Police Department.

Police Chief Tom Stolee was present. Councilmember Trost commented that the streets were not cleaned adequately by the St. Patrick's Day organizers for the St. Patrick's Day celebration held on March 13, 2010. Police Chief Stolee stated that he would ensure compliance for next year's event. The Council acknowledged receipt of the Police Department report.

5.4. Community Development Department.

Community Development Director Trisha Rosenfeld was present. The Council acknowledged receipt of the Community Development Department report.

5.5. City Administration Report.

City Administrator David Murphy was present. The Council acknowledged receipt of the City Administration report.

6. PUBLIC FORUM.

No one spoke at the public forum.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

7.1. TAX ABATEMENT FOR RETAIL DEVELOPMENT. The City Council will accept public comment on a request by Oppidan, Inc., for tax abatement for retail development near the intersection of Hickory Boulevard and East Enterprise Drive. The City Council will consider granting the request by Oppidan for tax abatement at the maximum amount of $487,160 for a term of up to twenty (20) years, which is a proposed business subsidy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 116J.993 to 116J.995 (the "Business Subsidy Act").

Mayor Lies referenced a memo dated March 15, 2010 from Community Development Director Rosenfeld regarding a tax abatement request by Oppidan, Inc.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that the City Council called for an official public hearing on the tax abatement request from Oppidan at the March 1, 2010 Council meeting. The public hearing was published with the following terms: *Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Belle Plaine, Minnesota will meet in the Government Center located at 218 North Meridian Street in Belle Plaine on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 6:05 p.m. to consider public comment on a request by Oppidan, Inc., for tax abatement for retail development near the intersection of Hickory Boulevard and East Enterprise Drive. The City Council will consider the request by Oppidan for tax abatement at the maximum amount of $487,160 for a term up to twenty (20) years.*

Included with Community Development Director Rosenfeld's memo was the proposed tax abatement agreement and resolution with the actual terms to be determined by the Council. Also attached was a memo from Julie Eddington of Kennedy & Graven. Community Development Director Rosenfeld provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the tax abatement request, including details on the definition of tax abatement, maximum terms, approval process, financing options, look-back provision, business subsidy provision and expected taxes.

Mayor Lies opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. and asked for public comment.

Paul Tucci, Oppidan, explained that he is a developer and is proposing a retail development for Belle Plaine and asked for consideration of tax abatement. Oppidan will be asking Scott County and the School District to participate in the tax abatement also. Mr. Tucci explained that construction is expected to begin as soon as all three entities approve the tax abatement. He stated that Oppidan and Coborns conducted a public forum recently to explain the proposed development project. The Coborns grocery store will include a gas station, convenience store and off-sale liquor store. The development will result in the creation of many new jobs. Mr. Tucci explained that the tax dollars generated for the retail development do not exist at this time and asked for consideration to abate the increased property taxes. He also explained that the development will be advantageous to the City as it will serve as a catalyst for other retail development in the area.

Neal Williamson, 921 South Walnut Street, stated that he is no fan of tax abatement or subsidy, however, in this case it appears the benefits outweigh the cost. He stated he has lived in Belle Plaine for three years and would like to see the city grow and prosper. Mr. Williamson asked that the council consider the abatement request.

Julie Felderman, 346 East Century Street, stated she supports the tax abatement request. She wants to see retail development occur so that the city can grow and expand. Ms. Felderman asked that the council consider granting the tax abatement request.

Rose Bast, 1000 West South Street, stated she moved to Belle Plaine nine years ago. She said there are very few jobs available for young people ages 16 to 18 and therefore she supports Coborns investment in the city to help create new jobs. Ms. Bast stated that Coborns will bring other businesses to our town. She asked that the council consider investing in our community and in our children.

Scott Schneider, 510 North Elm Street, concurred with the statements of support made by other residents. He said the benefits of the tax abatement request outweigh the risks. He would like to see retail development occur so the City can offer more opportunities for residents. He said Coborns will spur more development. Mr. Schneider stated that he has consulted residents and most of the comments were in support of the tax abatement request. He was encouraged by the look-back policy to protect the city.

Lori Otto, taxpayer at 613 East Main Street, was opposed to the tax abatement request. She stated the information supplied by Coborns pertaining to new jobs was not accurate. She said that Coborns will take jobs away from existing businesses. She referenced the closing of McMahon’s drug store in New Prague as a result of the opening of a Coborns store. She also said that a convenience store closed and jobs were lost. Ms. Otto cited the McCombs retail study done by the city. She said that competition is good, but the playing field is not equal if a developer is given $500,000. She listed the existing businesses in the city that she feels will be put at risk due to the Coborns store. She asked that the council deny the tax abatement to allow a true competitive environment.

Otto Pries, 520 East Commerce Drive, owner of Little Brown Jug, said he has been doing business in town for 35 years. He was opposed to the city offering a tax abatement to Coborns and asked where he could get in line for tax abatement.

Patrick Moriarty, 111 South West Street, stated he lived in Belle Plaine for eight years. He was opposed to the tax abatement request and explained that Oppidan is an investment company. He commented that he believed it was unfair for the city to grant tax abatement.

Wayne Whitmore, 25391 Meridian Circle, commented that he would like to see more job opportunities in the city. The State took away three businesses when the interchange was built. He inquired as to how the tax abatement will impact residential property taxes.

Esther Tikalsky, 1003 West Prairie Street, asked that the council consider approval of the tax abatement request. She stated that although she is not a fan of tax abatement, she feels the development will spur more growth. She commented that New Prague is benefitting from their new Coborns store and that business is booming there.

Wallace Otto, 610 West Main Street, was not opposed to Coborns coming to town, but was opposed to the tax abatement request. He concurred with the comments made by Lori Otto.

Chuck Valek, 22 Woodridge Drive, was opposed to the tax abatement request. He questioned the unfairness because there are many existing businesses that have not received tax abatement. He stated that the City of New Prague did not provide any tax abatement to Coborns. He said that Belle Plaine offers much more benefit that New Prague, such as higher traffic volumes and larger population. Mr.

Valek also commented that the Coborns development will need city services and that this could cause property taxes to rise. He asked that the council support the EDA's recommendation to deny the request.

Maynardt Bahrke, 400 West Court Street, was opposed to the tax abatement request. He stated that he did not appreciate Coborns advertisement to sell liquor less than wholesale prices.

Diane Otto, 803 West Church Street, was opposed to the tax abatement. She said the city still needs to provide many services, such as police protection, snow removal and street cleaning. She asked who is going to cover the Oppidan development taxes to cover city services. Ms. Otto is concerned for rising property taxes and urged the council to oppose the Oppidan and Coborn tax abatement request.

Amber Anderson, 802 West Main, stated that her property taxes increased eight percent over last year. She asked if the city council would consider abating the property taxes for 200 households, which would be similar to the Oppidan request.

Joe Huber, 240 South Cedar Street, stated he is opposed to the tax abatement request. He said that he and many other volunteers work hard at Bar B Q Days to raise funds and was opposed to giving Oppidan $24,000 a year. He suggested the council follow the recommendation of the EDA to deny the tax abatement request.

Bill Huber, 1012 West Court Street, was opposed to the tax abatement request. He expressed concern for existing businesses that did not receive tax abatement. He asked that the council keep the playing field level for all businesses.

Matt Fahey, 117 West Main Street, was opposed to the tax abatement request. He questioned the cost to provide city services to the retail development if the tax abatement request is approved. He noted that the newly-built Cenex and KwikTrip convenience stores and gas stations did not ask for tax abatement. He said taxes are high and he does not believe it is necessary to provide tax abatement to Coborns.

Dale Otto, 613 West Main Street, was opposed to the tax abatement request. He stated that it would have been wonderful if he could have received $500,000 when he started his business 24 years ago. He asked why Mr. Coborn was not present at tonight's meeting. He spoke about the closing and transfer of businesses in New Prague as a result of Coborns. He questioned the amount of full time jobs being created by Coborns.

Kelly Vossen, 901 Ashford Road, moved here three years ago and was told that Belle Plaine is a thriving community. Very few businesses have moved here and she said it is frustrating to drive 20 to 30 miles to buy groceries. She asked the council to consider the tax abatement request to help the business community move forward.

Craig Otto, 226 West Main, was opposed to tax abatement. He believed it was unfair to give tax abatement to one business and not others.

Jeff Schipull, 901 Farmers Way, asked whether granting tax abatement will set a precedent. He asked that the council listen to the comments from the community when making their decision.

Katie Novotny, 120 North Cedar Street, stated that she is not against Coborns coming to town, but is opposed to the tax abatement request. She commented that Coborns is a multi-million dollar company and that the city should look out for the welfare of the city.

Renee Schultz, 148 South Linden Street, welcomed Coborns, but was opposed to the tax abatement request. She asked that all businesses have a level playing field.

The Council recessed at 7:24 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor Lies read letters from Dan Lage, Dale McCall, 8880 228th Street West, Dustan and Mary Drummer, 150 O'Brien Parkway and Erik and Lila Brown, 350 East Century Street, who wrote in support of Coborns development and the strong need for a grocery store here. Ricci Kelso, DVM, Belle Plaine Animal Hospital, wrote in opposition to the tax abatement request.

MOTION by Councilmember Lange, second by Councilmember Coop, to close the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Lange commented that he has just received the 17-page document and would like some time to read through it before taking action. Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that the agreement is the same one that was distributed last week, with the exception of changes made by Oppidan.

MOTION by Councilmember Lange to table action on Resolution 10-038 Approving Property Tax Abatement for Certain Property in the City of Belle Plaine, to allow time to review the revised agreement between the City and Oppidan.

Mayor Lies called for a second on the motion. There was no response. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

Julie Eddington, Municipal Finance, Kennedy and Graven, explained that the proposed resolution grants the tax abatement and the agreement provides the contract details. The look-back provision allows the City to re-negotiate the tax abatement based upon the sale profit by Oppidan to Coborns. Upon sale or completion, a new analysis will be done. A percentage of the profit would be applied, reducing the tax abatement accordingly. The City received changes from Oppidan on March 12, 2010 and that Coborns will be included in the agreement.

Councilmember Trost commented that he does not believe the public hearing allows for proper testimony. He explained that the tax abatement will be granted to the Oppidan, the developer, and not Coborns. He said that the developer and Coborns did not ask the City of New Prague for tax abatement. Mayor Lies commented on the overall economy and noted that it is difficult in these poor economic times to attract businesses. He commented that it would be difficult for the city if Oppidan did not develop here. He suggested a compromise. He noted that there is work to be done on the proposed agreement.

Councilmember Coop commented that he agrees with Councilmember Lange and that action should be tabled to allow more time for review of the agreement and suggested that the council schedule a closed meeting to discuss the terms. City Attorney Vose explained that it would not be appropriate for the council to go into closed session to negotiate the terms of the agreement. Councilmember Trost asked when the Coborns will be built. Community Development Director Rosenfeld replied that the completion date is October 31, 2011. He asked if the city provides the full abatement whether the completion date can be moved closer. Paul Oppidan replied that he would like to start the development as soon as possible. Oppidan will be approaching Scott County to request tax abatement. He hopes to open the Coborns store by October, 2010. Councilmember Lange asked what happens if Coborns is not completed by 2011. Finance Director Meyer explained that no change to the agreement is necessary because the tax abatement is "pay as you go."

1. Resolution 10-038 Approving Property Tax Abatement for Certain Property in the City of Belle Plaine.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, to approve Resolution 10-038 Approving Property Tax Abatement for Certain Property in the City of Belle Plaine, for a twelve (12) year term, ending February 1, 2024, for a total amount of abatement at $292,296, contingent upon approval of the tax abatement by Scott County, and also upon approval of the contract agreement.

Mayor Lies called for a second on the motion. There was no response. Motion died for lack of a second.

MOTION by Mayor Lies, second by Councilmember Lange, to approve Resolution 10-038 Approving Property Tax Abatement for Certain Property in the City of Belle Plaine, for a ten (10) year term, ending February 1, 2022 contingent upon approval of the contract agreement. Councilmember Trost VOTED NAY. ALL OTHERS VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember O'Laughlin commented that the City has given business subsidy over the years in the form of façade improvement grants, revolving loan fund and rental incentives. Mayor Lies recommended that Oppidan and staff work out the details in the agreement regarding the sale profit should Oppidan sell the property. Councilmember Coop recommended that the job creation be 25 full-time positions and 100 part-time, to be created within two years and maintained for five years. Councilmember Lange stated he disagreed with the job creation and preferred that Coborns be allowed to manage their staffing needs. Julie Eddington explained that the contract calls for job creation requirements, as per State Statute. It was the consensus to proceed with job creation of 25 full-time and 88 part-time. The agreement will be presented for council approval at an upcoming meeting.

BUSINESS.

8.1. Presentation of Claims.

MOTION by Councilmember Lange, second by Councilmember Coop, to approve the Presentation of Claims as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

The Council recessed at 8:23 p.m. and reconvened at 8:32 p.m.

8.2. Resolution 10-035 Granting Conditional Approval of Concept Plan by Oppidan for Retail Development.

Mayor Lies referenced a memo dated March 15, 2010 from Community Development Director Rosenfeld regarding a proposed concept plan.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that Oppidan Inc. is requesting the review of the concept plan for the retail center of Outlot A of Diversified Business Park Second Addition. The applicant is proposing a 6,500 square foot multi-tenant retail building, with McDonald's in 3,000 square feet, and the balance for individual tenant(s). An outlot cannot be built upon until it is platted, therefore the applicant will need to go through the platting process for the second phase of this development. The applicant was aware of this at the time they platted this lot as an outlot in the Coborn's development. The zoning classification proposed for the site is I-C, Industrial Commercial. Outlot A of Diversified Business Park Second Addition consists of 1.064 acres. Oppidan has indicated the shared access aisle with the property owner to the east will remain private and have no public participation or maintenance. As a condition of the approvals for the Diversified Business Park Second Addition (Coborn's), a temporary construction easement will be necessary for construction grading. A permanent access easement will be necessary for access to the adjacent properties. The boundaries of the easement will need to be clearly delineated on the site plan and easement documents. A copy of the fully executed and recorded easement document should be submitted to the City prior to building permits being issued.

The traffic impact study was completed for the Coborn's development and the traffic study will need to be updated to determine what the impact of McDonalds will have on the traffic to the area. This will be required as part of the preliminary plat application. This development has a 3,000 sq. ft. fast-food restaurant, and retail units totaling 3,600 sq.ft. The layout of McDonald's is unknown at this time, and there unable to be determined as to the requirement for this portion. The site currently represents a total of 41 standard spaces plus 2 handicapped spaces for this development. It is likely the applicant may have to request a reduction to the required amount of off-street parking for this development. Park dedication fees were part of the Diversified Business Park Second Addition plat. The City Engineer prepared comments dated March 1, 2010 were included with Community Development Director Rosenfeld's memo.

The Planning Commission requested reconfiguration of the internal traffic patterns prior to platting by the developer. The Planning Commission recommended approval based upon the following conditions: 1) Compliance with all engineering comments from Bolton & Menk dated March 1, 2010, and 2) Contingent upon review comments from Scott County and MnDOT.

Paul Tucci, Oppidan, requested the Council consider approval of the concept plan, with the understanding that the internal traffic patterns will be re-evaluated. Councilmember Lange commented that he is unsure about approving the concept plan with the internal traffic issues. Councilmember Trost explained that it is only a concept and that the developer will return with reconfiguration of the site. Councilmember Trost noted that the Planning Commissioners had discussed removing the seven parking spaces that are shown on the east side of the plan to allow for better traffic flow and to shift the development to the east. Paul Tucci stated that Oppidan will be reviewing the plan and will take these comments into consideration during the re-evaluation.

MOTION by Councilmember Trost, second by Councilmember Underferth, to approve Resolution 10-035 Granting Conditional Approval of Concept Plan by Oppidan for Retail Development. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.3. Park Related.

1. Resolution 10-041 Approving Concept Plan for Union Square Park Shelter.

Mayor Lies referenced a memo dated March 15, 2010 from Community Development Director Rosenfeld regarding a concept plan for the Union Square Park Shelter.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that the Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce requested Park Board review the concept of constructing an addition to the two existing shelters at Union Square. This addition would connect the two existing shelters to provide additional space for public gatherings and the Belle Plaine Barbeque Days Celebration. Public Works Superintendent Al Fahey has reviewed the plans for the shelter addition and does not have any issues or discrepancies with the project at this time. City Administrator, David Murphy has estimated the total cost of the project not to exceed $20,000. The Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce also would like to donate $9,000 to this project. The Baseball Association has also discussed assistance in the amount of $2,500 once the project has started to help offset material costs. This leaves a possible $8,500 difference needed for funding the project. The Park Board recommended approval of the concept plan for the shelter addition. The additional funding of the project was not discussed.

Councilmember Trost asked whether the electrical pole near the shelters will be moved. Public Works Superintendent Fahey explained that power will have to be re-routed. Councilmember Trost asked if the cost of the wrought iron fence was included in the estimate. City Administrator Murphy replied yes. Councilmember Trost asked from which fund the cost will be expended. City Administrator Murphy replied that it has not been determined. Councilmember Coop asked the opinion of Public Works Superintendent Fahey as to which fund the cost is to be expended. Public Works Superintendent Fahey stated that he believes it is a park improvement therefore funds would come from the Park Fund 205. Councilmember Coop replied that the Park Board did not recommend funds from the Park Fund and asked Public Works Superintendent Fahey if there are funds available in the Capital Improvement Fund for park improvements. Public Works Superintendent Fahey replied there is no capital improvement fund for parks. Councilmember Lange inquired about the annual levy for parks. Finance Director Meyer explained that $22,000 is levied for park development. The Park Board has a comprehensive plan for park expenditures. Public Works Superintendent Fahey recommended that the City order a plan set for the shelter so that an accurate cost estimate can be obtained. City Attorney Vose explained that the City Council may proceed with accepting the donation from the Chamber of Commerce and in the event the shelter is not built, the funds would be returned to the Chamber, as requested in their letter.

MOTION by Councilmember Trost, second by Councilmember O'Laughlin, to approve Resolution 10-041 Approving Concept Plan for Union Square Park Shelter. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Resolution 10-037 Accepting Cash Donation from Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Lies referenced a memo dated March 15, 2010 from Community Development Director Rosenfeld regarding a donation from the Chamber of Commerce.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that the Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce has requested the Park Board review the concept of constructing an addition to the two existing shelters at Union Square Park. The Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce would like to donate $9,000 towards this project.

Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Johnson was present at the meeting.

MOTION by Councilmember Lange, second by Councilmember Trost, to approve Resolution 10-037 Accepting Cash Donation from Chamber of Commerce, with language added that the donated funds shall be returned to the Chamber of Commerce in the event the shelter addition is not constructed. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Resolution 10-040 Accepting Cash Donation from the Belle Plaine Historical Society.

Mayor Lies referenced a memo dated March 15, 2010 from Community Development Director Rosenfeld regarding a cash donation from the Belle Plaine Historical Society.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that the Belle Plaine Historical Society would like to make a donation in the amount of $500 to help fund the restoration assessment for the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. City Council authorized the restoration assessment not to exceed a cost of $3,000, of which $1,500 will be paid from the City's general fund, $1,000 from Park Development funds and $500 was requested from the Belle Plaine Historical Society. The restoration assessment from SMSQ Architects provided the City with a report to be used both for grant application requirements and to provide contractors a plan to follow which will restore the building in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's design standards for the treatment of historic properties. The assessment from SMSQ Architects was presented at the March 1 Council meeting for submission with the pre-application for the Legacy Fund Grant.

MOTION by Councilmember Lange, second by Councilmember Underferth, to approve Resolution 10-040 Accepting Cash Donation from the Belle Plaine Historical Society. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.3. Resolution 10-042 Authorizing the Purchase of Park Equipment.

Mayor Lies referenced a memo dated March 15, 2010 from Community Development Director Rosenfeld regarding park equipment.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that the Park Board has budgeted approximately $9,000 from the Park Development fund for the addition of the following park equipment in 2010. The proposed park equipment additions have been chosen to the following: Park and trail benches and trash receptacles at a cost of $3,200; park sign for Founders Memorial Park at $2,500.79; and Meadow Park Bleachers at $3,123. The Park Board recommended approval of the expenditure of $8,823.79 of park development funds for the addition of park and trail benches and trash receptacles, Founders Memorial Park sign and bleachers for Meadow Park.

Councilmember Lange asked if multiple quotes were obtained for the equipment. Councilmember Coop replied that he assumes staff compared prices.

MOTION by Councilmember Underferth, second by Councilmember Coop, to approve Resolution 10-042 Authorizing the Purchase of Park Equipment. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.4. Resolution 10-039 Establishing Beautification Committee (ad hoc) and Appointing Members.

Mayor Lies referenced a memo dated March 15, 2010 from Community Development Director Rosenfeld regarding the establishment of the Beautification Committee.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that the Chamber of Commerce previously requested to have discussions with the City Council regarding the roles and responsibilities of each organization within the community. The EDA discussed this topic at the January meeting and requested the Chamber of Commerce to attend an upcoming EDA meeting to initiate discussions between the City of Belle Plaine and the Chamber of Commerce. The City Council consented to this action. Additional research has been conducted since the January meeting, jointly by the Chamber and City staff. The research was presented to the EDA at the March 8 meeting by each respective staff person. The word "beautification" was clarified in order to set the stage for the discussions. As been determined by City and Chamber staff, along with interpretation from other Chamber and City organizations, the word "beautification" can be classified in terms of the following items: planters, banners, trash receptacles, benches, Christmas decorations and lights, park improvements and other public facility improvements (library, pool, etc.) and streetscape and sidewalk improvements/maintenance.

Councilmembers Coop and O'Laughlin volunteered to participate in the Beautification Committee.

MOTION by Councilmember O'Laughlin, second by Councilmember Underferth, to approve Resolution 10-039 Establishing Beautification Committee (ad hoc) and appointing Councilmembers Cary Coop and Tim O'Laughlin as members. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.5. Resolution 10-043 Supporting the Application by SCALE to Google's Request for Information for the "Fiber to the Home" (FTTH) Project.

Mayor Lies referenced a memo dated March 15, 2010 from City Administrator Murphy regarding SCALE's application to Google for the "Fiber to the Home" (FTTH) Project.

City Administrator Murphy explained that Google is seeking to implement a demonstration "fiber to the home" project in the United States. Given the attractiveness of Google's proposal, they are seeking competitive proposals from communities throughout the United States with populations between 50,000 and 500,000. The system design being proposed by Google would deliver internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today. Costs associated with developing this type of interconnected system are far beyond what any private company would typically construct. The service applications through this type of system would be significantly enhanced compared to current service offerings. Since Google generates the majority of their revenue through advertising, the increased applications translate into greater sales revenue. Efforts through SCALE have resulted in a number of successful partnerships. The members of SCALE believe that the established history of working together will set us apart from other applicants. Scott County has established a regional public fiber ring which connects all communities and schools within Scott County. Very few areas in the United States have been able to accomplish this type of network connectivity. At this time, there is a great deal of uncertainty regarding Google's deployment method and related cost factors. All of the communities within Scott County are being asked to approve a resolution in support of our collective desire to submit an application to Google in response to their request for information process.

MOTION by Councilmember Underferth, second by Councilmember Lange, to approve Resolution 10-043 Resolution Supporting the Application by SCALE to Google's Request for Information (RFI) for the "Fiber to the Home" (FTTH) Project. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

9. ADMINISTRATION.

9.1. Upcoming Meetings.
1. Work Session, 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 22.
2. Public Works Committee, 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 23.
3. Mayor's Office Hours, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 1.
4. City Council, 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 5.
5. EDA, 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 12.
6. Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 12.
7. Park Board, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 13.
8. Design Committee, 5:00 p.m. Monday, April 19.
9. Board of Appeal and Equalization, 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 19.
10. City Council, 6:00 p.m. Monday, April 19.

The Council was reminded of the upcoming meetings as listed.

10. ADJOURN.

MOTION by Councilmember Trost, second by Councilmember Underferth, to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings
Recording Secretary