

## Draft Council Minutes

Owatonna City Administration Building

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

5:00 o'clock p.m.

The Owatonna City Council met in a special session on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Meeting Room of the Fire Hall with Council President Abraham presiding. Present were Council Members Burbank, Truelson, Svenby, Dotson and Abraham; Mayor Kuntz; City Attorney Walbran; City Engineer Johnson; Storm Water Manager Durand; Library Director Feltes; Fire Commander Kath; Police Captain Mundale; and Assistant City Clerk Clawson.

Council met to discuss the current flooding conditions caused by snow melt and recent rains. On March 17th, Council President Abraham declared a Temporary State of Emergency for Owatonna and Steele County Board Chair James Ebeling declared a Temporary State of Emergency for Steele County in anticipation of expected flooding to cause a significant amount of public property damage. Mayor Kuntz advised Steele County Commissioners met in committee session this afternoon and will recommend extension of the State of Emergency for Steele County at their meeting tonight. Mayor Kuntz recommended the city also extend the period of local emergency which would allow the general public access to sandbags at no cost and the county and city to work together during this flooding event.

Storm Water Manger Durand advised volunteers and CERT team members have filled approximately 7,000 sandbags. City Engineer Johnson recommended the city reserve 2,000 bags for public property protection and approximately 5,000 be made available to the general public for personal property protection at no cost. The bags can be picked up at the City Shop from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and after hours by contacting the Fire Hall. Residents will be asked to sign receipt of the bags also acknowledging they will properly dispose of the bags and sand after the waters recede. If the current supply of filled bags is exhausted, additional bags and sand piles are available. City staff is not available to haul or deliver sand bags to private properties.

Johnson reported the river crested the previous morning and hopeful that the crisis has passed. The current flood levels are manageable if only a small amount of additional precipitation is received. Commander Kath and Durand reported the river and stream levels are regularly monitored and showed a slight drop in the last readings taken at 4:00 p.m. today.

Captain Mundale requested clarification of the after-hour contact number and process for the public to obtain sand bags and emergency information during the State of Emergency period. Library Director Feltes is the media contact during the flooding events and will post updates of the flooding conditions on the city's website and the Steele County Emergency Management's Facebook page:  
<http://www.facebook.com/SCEmergencyManagement>.

To be prepared for potential crisis and to waive the general public's current fee of \$1.10 per bag for filled sand bags, Council Member Truelson made a motion to approve Resolution 12-11 extending the period of local emergency; Council Member Burbank seconded this motion which was approved by all members present.

Council Member Svenby made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Council Member Dotson seconded the motion. With all members present voting aye, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Dated: March 23, 2011

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanette Clawson, Assistant City Clerk