Call to Order

Mayor Young called the workshop to order at 5:38 p.m. In attendance with Mayor Young were: Deputy Mayor Swatman, Councilmember Bricker, Councilmember DeLeo, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Palecek, Councilmember Rackley and Councilmember King. Staff members attending were Planning & Community Development Director Bob Leedy, Public Works Director Seth Boettcher, Assistant Public Works Director Gary Leaf, City Attorney Jim Dionne, and City Clerk Gayle Butcher.

Agenda Items

Mayor Young requested that Resolution No. 1023 (Annexation Area No. 5) be added to the agenda. He noted City Attorney Dionne needed to leave early this evening and Mayor Young would like discussion of the annexation resolution and powers of cities regarding initiative and referendum discussed earlier. Councilmember Bricker requested Ordinance No. 960 (Use of City vehicles by Elected Officials) be reconsidered and requested Council action. Deputy Mayor Swatman and Councilmember DeLeo expressed concern with taking action at a Council Workshop without the benefit of public input.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Swatman, second by Councilmember DeLeo, to consider Ordinance No. 960 and take action.

Motion Carried 5-2 with Deputy Mayor Swatman and Councilmember DeLeo dissenting.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Swatman, second by Councilmember Palecek, to rearrange the agenda as Mayor Young suggested.

Motion Carried 6-0-1 with Councilmember King abstaining.

1. Open Discussion

Planning and Community Development Director Leedy distributed a status report of all permits.

Mayor Young asked if Council would endorse Referendum No.51, the Transportation Bill. Majority consensus of the Council was that this is a state issue and that citizens should contact their state electors on this issue.

Deputy Mayor Swatman asked whether Linda Youngberg had received information related to her clearing and grading permit, and Planning and Community Development Director Leedy said yes.
Public Works Director Boettcher was asked whether what types of issues might arise if a citizen did some landscaping in the City’s rights of way. Public Works Director Boettcher noted any type of landscaping could be mowed, but trees were especially susceptible to removal. Councilmember Bricker noted said residents could determine the width of the road by noticing how far back the fire hydrants were set back off of the road.

Councilmember Bricker asked about the status of the sinkhole at 193rd and the permit status related to the Canning project. Both Public Works Director Boettcher and Planning and Community Development Director Leedy said they would check into the situations and get back to Council.

Councilmember DeLeo asked whether a potential restaurant site at 214th would pay $600,000 in traffic impact fees. Public Works Director Boettcher noted traffic impact fees are not adopted at this time, but a possible 500-seat restaurant would produce a lot of cars. Planning and Community Development Director Leedy noted such a facility would impact sewer capacity, utilities and wetland drainage. He also said he would provide Council with a summary report on the possible costs.

Deputy Mayor Swatman asked about a possible 95th Street Local Improvement District and asked Community and Development Chair, Councilmember Rackley, to review at an upcoming committee meeting.

Deputy Mayor Swatman asked why Mr. Decker might be required to pay another sewer hookup fee to a primary residence that is being built, when the small home is already hooked up to utilities. Public Works Director Boettcher noted a primary residence and accessory dwelling unit are looked at just like apartments. Public Works Director Boettcher will double-check the criteria. Councilmember Johnson expressed concern with the language in the Code related to accessory dwelling units. Councilmember DeLeo said he was working on new language and he is planning to present an amendment to the code at the next Council workshop.

Councilmember Johnson asked whether an email policy for citizens was posted on the web. Mayor Young said the City’s basic policy would be put on the web. Councilmember King and Councilmember Johnson discussed issues with review of citizen emails and determining what is appropriate. Councilmember DeLeo said he thought a tempest in a teapot was brewing. He emphasized the issue is that the City did not notify a citizen that the emails were a problem. Now that the citizen has been so advised, the citizen is not emailing the City. Councilmember DeLeo urged each member of the Council to look at other web sites and see what they do.

Mayor Young asked for and received Council’s support in the City’s participating in the 9:11 Memorial rally at Cheney Stadium. Councilmember Palecek suggested the City look into creating some type of a perpetual memorial that citizens could make donations to when they lose a loved one.

Planning and Community Development Director Leedy reviewed the Sign Code restrictions that impact “big box” buildings, such as Wal Mart. After discussion, Director Leedy said he would work with Wal Mart within the administrative limitations and he would try to expedite an amendment to the code.

2. Draft Minutes: July 16, August 6, August 13, 2002
Councilmember Johnson requested a correction to the July 16th minutes, page 1 as follows: “. . . help developers new businesses.”

Regarding the August 6th minutes, Councilmember Rackley corrected page 1 as follows: “Li Ehli Creek may not cost as much as requested in the budget budgeted. Councilmember DeLeo referred to page 3 and asked that more information be provided as to why Council took action on Resolution No. 1020.

Old Business

1. Skateboard Park Discussion relating to Donations

Councilmember DeLeo presented a brief report on businesses that he had contacted regarding donations. A discussion was held regarding coordination of possible donations in relation to the bid process and what might be a specification that could be changed through negotiation. The other option is to re-bid the project. Assistant Public Works Director Gary Leaf would discuss donations with persons recommended by Councilmember DeLeo. The skateboard park construction period is estimated at 75 days to build, and that it can be built during the winter.

New Business

1. Initiative & Referendum Powers of Cities Discussion

City Attorney Jim Dionne presented a briefing on the methods that could be used to institute an initiative and referendum process for code cities. A direct petition method and Council method were reviewed. He highlighted that an initiative and referendum process is narrow and limited in scope, and urged everyone to become familiar with page 8 of the agenda handout. The major issue is the effective dates of ordinances. Should an initiative and referendum process be elected for the city, ordinances would have 30 days to become effective. Mayor Young distributed a copy of the City Clerk’s letter transmitting a petition on to the auditor’s office for certification. Further discussion would occur once the City knew whether the petition was sufficient. Councilmember Rackley indicated he believed the Council should move ahead with such a process even if the petition was found insufficient.

2. Resolution No. 1023, related to Annexation Area 5

A brief discussion on the proposed ballot measure was held and Deputy Mayor Swatman received Council support to include assumption of indebtedness into the resolution language.

Just prior to City Attorney Dionne being excused at 7:05 p.m., City Attorney Dionne advised Council that as a point of order, Council needed to vote to amend or to rescind the ordinance related to use of city vehicles by elected officials.

Mayor Young called for a recess at 7:06 p.m. and he reconvened the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

3. “My Home Town” Discussion

Mayor Young asked for Council input and assistance in getting as many people as possible for the filming of the “My Home Town” Welcome. Council preferred trying for the opening welcome to be filmed on September 5 and suggestions were the Wal Mart parking lot, the
Park & Ride, or the Fennel Creek Pasture. Mayor Young will discuss the filming with Dorothy Wilhelm tomorrow morning.

4. Public Notice Requirements per BLMC 14.30

After a brief discussion, Council consensus was to have bigger signs for the public notice of planning projects.

5. Mobile Home Park/Sewer Billing Discussion

Mayor Young discussed a letter he had received related to billing and for vacant connections at a mobile home park. He noted the Finance Department is working on correcting the billing address. Mayor Young asked for Council’s consideration to not charge for vacant connections. Councilmember Bricker did not believe there was any difference between a mobile home park and an apartment complex. During Council’s discussion, it was noted that capacity (residential equivalents) did need to be allocated, just like other high-density developments or single-family homes.

6. Ordinance No. 960, related to Elected Officials Use of City Vehicles

Councilmember Bricker stated from the beginning he was not in favor of Ordinance No. 886. He believed the ordinance hampered Council and others at the recent AWC Conference and he is not able to volunteer his time to drive the senior van.

Councilmember Rackley noted the reason why Ordinance No. 886 was considered was because a city car was assigned to one person and was a poor use of city resources, but he was in supported occasional use. Councilmember DeLeo suggested the following language amendment: “Elected City Officials shall be allowed to use a city vehicle only to car pool to a specific event.” Councilmember King noted he did not want to deprive city employees from utilizing city vehicles. Councilmember Bricker was asked why he wanted the ordinance considered as an action item this evening. Councilmember Palecek asked whether this would prevent Planning Commissioner Julia Bowen from volunteering her time to drive the van. Because she is not an elected official, the ordinance does not apply to her. Councilmember Bricker said that he had requested this item on a workshop agenda twice, and twice it had been removed. Deputy Mayor Swatman noted his concern with proper process and that an ordinance requires two readings. Councilmember DeLeo said that Council should not be taking action in workshops and that the public input occurs at a Council meeting. Councilmember King did not feel this was an urgent matter and could be considered at next week’s meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Bricker, second by Councilmember Palecek, to table action on Ordinance No. 960 and place the ordinance on next week’s agenda.

Motion Carried Unanimously 7-0.

There was no further business to discuss and Mayor Young adjourned the workshop at 8:04 p.m.
Bob Young, Mayor

Gayle Butcher, City Clerk