

RESOLUTION NO. 3318

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the State of Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity; and,

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is housing 560 inmates in county jails where they cannot receive critical rehabilitation services available in State correctional facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections projects the State of Minnesota's prison population will grow by at least 500 inmates by the year 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is seeking \$141.5 Million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction of a 500-bed expansion at Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City to accommodate projected prison population growth; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota would incur additional costs such as interest, debt service, maintenance and annual operating costs associated with expanding Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton is home to a vacant and well-maintained 1,600-bed prison; and,

WHEREAS, 350 people from 24 surrounding communities worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 Million for the regional economy; and,

WHEREAS, many ancillary businesses in the region and their workers benefitted when the Appleton prison was in use; and,

WHEREAS, the region offers robust infrastructure to provide rehabilitation services for State of Minnesota inmates and a great quality of life for working families; and,

WHEREAS, the cost to the State of Minnesota to lease the Appleton prison is estimated to be \$6 Million-\$8 Million per year, plus annual operating costs – substantially lower than constructing and maintaining new, permanent correctional facilities; and,

WHEREAS, it is practical that the State of Minnesota do its due diligence to fairly consider the costs associated with leasing and operating the Appleton prison before constructing new, permanent correctional facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONTEVIDEO declares its support for a proposal for the State of Minnesota to lease and operate the Appleton prison with State of Minnesota public employees to provide much needed jobs and economic development for the people of West Central Minnesota and to provide effective rehabilitation services for inmates needed to reduce recidivism.

Passed and adopted this 19th day of October, 2015.

M. E. Oake
President - City Council

ATTEST:

Hennis A. Lauritsen
City Clerk