



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Tim Hultmann; Council: Kurt Kaminski, Tom Skjaret, Donny Chillstrom, and Liz Olson

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Others Present: Jim Grube, Hennepin County Engineer; and Mike Turner, SRF Consulting

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LONG LAKE NEWS UPDATE

Mayor Hultmann noted that the meeting date had been changed from February 4 to February 3 due to precinct caucuses being held February 4, and thanked those who had adjusted their schedules to attend. He stated that CSAH 112 turnback project plans are the result of a 26 month study conducted by Hennepin County that incorporated input from city residents, business representatives and staff.

He also thanked Public Works for their continued efforts in keeping streets clear of snow this winter.

Lastly, Mayor Hultmann encouraged continued support of local businesses as often as possible.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Chillstrom, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of January 21, 2014 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of January 21, 2014 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Establish Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 6:00 pm as the Date and Time for the 2014 Local Board of Review Hearing

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Chillstrom, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one appeared to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

CSAH 112 Turnback Project Public Open Forum

Mayor Hultmann reported on recent efforts undertaken to make progress towards pursuing reducing speed limits along the CSAH 112 corridor, specifically on the east end of town. He also noted that based on personal experience with a recent trail project, he is now viewing trail improvements proposed as part of the CSAH 112 turnback project more favorably. He indicated that additional trails along more isolated neighborhoods would improve the potential for kids, pedestrians, bikers and rollerbladers to come into town during their activities.

Mayor Hultmann introduced Mike Turner of SRF Consulting, and Hennepin County Engineer Jim Grube, who were in attendance at the meeting to participate in discussions.

Jim Grube offered introductory comments regarding the proposed CSAH 112 project; discussed the background of the roadway and turnback process; commented on study sessions held previously to learn more about the community's needs and concerns; and noted that the goal for all parties is to try and find a roadway solution that will work now and in the future.

Input was received from the following individuals in attendance at the meeting:

- **Dan MacDonald, 335 Russell Lane** – Expressed opposition to the trail proposed along CSAH 112 by his neighborhood, noting that the trail would cross several streets and driveways and would put pedestrians and cyclists at risk at these crossings. He felt the trail was inadvisable and redundant, as a trail is already in place that does not cross intersections and is located only two blocks away. He sees snow removal being an issue with new trail facilities. He further objected to any crosswalk being located in the area of Greenhill Lane unless speed limits are significantly dropped in advance. He commented that his neighbor, Adam Bestler, had expressed support for his comments and welcomed Mr. MacDonald to share his name with the Council.
- **Earl Swanson, 1145 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Stated he believes the most dangerous element of the proposed project is the crosswalk incorporated at Greenhill Lane, and commented on the continued high speed of traffic in that area. He felt that speed reduction measures will not be effective enough for a crosswalk in that area to ever be safe. He recommended simply fixing the CSAH 112 roadway and forgoing trails and other improvements.
- **Ed Peterson, 1045 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Also indicated he has great concern regarding the crosswalk proposed at Greenhill Lane and questioned the feasibility of installing a bridge to route pedestrian traffic over the roadway instead. He also added that he has yet to see detailed information from Hennepin County regarding the proposed installation of a retaining wall on his property as part of their project. He further noted that the real problem is that commuters wanting to avoid traffic lines on the bypass use CSAH 112 to travel as fast as they can, and emphasized that drivers must be discouraged from using CSAH 112 and Long Lake as a runway.
- **Dale Lemmerman, 1117 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Also strongly objected to a crosswalk in the Greenhill Lane area and discussed his observations of ongoing speed issues and driver behavior in that area. He also voiced objection to installations of islands in the roadway, reflecting they will present a snow removal issue. Later in the meeting, he also questioned whether the people of Long Lake know what the project will cost them.
- **Earl Dingman, 1075 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Questioned whether the angle of the intersection of Old Long Lake Road and CSAH 112 would be improved as part of the project.

- **Carl Tomasko, 1828 Symes Street** – Commented that he was disappointed not to see detailed plans and visuals posted or published for viewing. He also questioned the purpose of a crossing at Martha Lane, and expressed some confusion about the trail proposal for the downtown area in the vicinity of his property.
- **Pat Norman, 1828 Symes Street** – Discussed alternative examples of pedestrian crossing flashing light signals she had seen and questioned whether they might be effective options. She expressed her appreciation to the Council for exploring different trail options in the downtown area, and expressed concern about the negative impacts trail installation would have on her property and questioned what compensation would be made for destruction of her landscaping and removal of her beautiful trees. She noted that plans may work well on paper, but she would like to see someone visit properties to better see how they would be affected.
- **Tomas Amor, 1135 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Also expressed strong concern for the proposed crosswalk in the Greenhill Lane area, and noted that he did not see any way for the crosswalk to be structured to offer safe passage. He stated that the neighbors in the area all have very good insight regarding traffic concerns based on what they see day after day in living there. If speed limits go down, traffic will still move at excessive speed through the corridor, and reaction time will continue to be insufficient to assure safety. As a licensed civil engineer, Mr. Amor indicated that a good design should limit the number of contact points where people and vehicles interact. Present turnback project plans conflict with that principle and add contact points.
- **Jahn Dyvik, 1780 Martha Lane** – Mr. Dyvik indicated that while he would not be opposed to a pedestrian crossing at Mill Street, he would want to be sure adding that crossing wouldn't be at the expense of losing the crosswalk at Martha Lane. He also commented on plans include pulling away parking spaces from the Mill Street intersection.
- **Marty Schneider, 1176 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Sought information about the approval process, cost obligations, and whether design elements will be changeable prior to beginning construction.

Mr. Grube responded to comment received from the public and to Council member questions and concerns throughout the forum. Topics of discussion included concern about speed limits on the east end of town; the goals of the project's engineering; the proposed Greenhill Lane area crosswalk; the Council's desire to see a crosswalk implemented at Mill Street; possible signaling structures available to call attention to crosswalks; reduction of speed limits prior to the start of a project; and the process for Council approval of layout versus entering into a contract with the County for the City's portion of the project, which would take place closer to the project start date. Mr. Grube did indicate that if the Council votes to approve the layout phase of the project and commits to working on the project with Hennepin County, he would begin efforts with MnDOT to reduce speed levels as soon as possible. He also commented on the incorporation of replacing city water/sewer infrastructure as part of the project, future communications that would take place with property owners, and the anticipated construction timeline for the project.

Council members continued to discuss project elements proposed and costs associated, as well as the timeline for project approval versus contract negotiation for city contract items. It was noted that the Council would appreciate an updated spreadsheet from the County regarding project costs, preferably with red lined items removed, and costs specific to Long Lake only.

OTHER BUSINESS

Snowball Open – Council member Kaminski extended his thanks to all the attendees that participated in this year’s Orono Lions Club Snowball Open event. Despite the cold weather, turnout was good and it was a great fundraiser for the Orono Lions RED program.

Scheduling Additional Work Session – Council member Chillstrom asked whether the Council would be meeting again to discuss the CSAH 112 turnback project plans further prior to voting on the project layout. It was the consensus of the Council that an additional work session for continued discussion would be of benefit.

A motion was made by Chillstrom, seconded by Kaminski, to schedule a City Council work session meeting for Monday, February 10, 2014 beginning at 5:30 pm. Ayes: all.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Chillstrom, seconded by Skjaret, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: all. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk