



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
December 3, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Tom Skjaret, Jahn Dyvik, (arrived late at approximately 5:30 pm), Michelle Jerde, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Engineer: Alex Miller; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Pavement Management 2019 Update

Lee Gustafson of WSB introduced himself and stated that he was in attendance at the meeting to assist City Engineer Miller with her presentation on the Pavement Management Plan.

City Engineer Miller gave a brief overview of the 2019 Pavement Management Plan update and reviewed the differences between a mill and overlay project versus a full reconstruction project. She reviewed the nine total miles of road in the City and their pavement ratings. She reviewed a map that showed the history of the various watermain breaks.

Council member Skjaret asked how the City can determine the condition of the watermains.

City Engineer Miller replied that a lot of it is age and its break history.

The Council discussed the conditions of the roadways and the watermain breaks.

Mr. Gustafson stated that there are a variety of pavement rehabilitation options for the City to consider. He stated that City Engineer Miller is recommending that the City undertake an accelerated rehabilitation.

City Engineer Miller gave a brief overview of the proposed accelerated rehabilitation plan, costs, and timeline for the City streets.

The Council discussed phasing and bonding options to pay for the street improvements.

Mr. Gustafson shared examples of what the cities of Osseo and North Branch have done with bonding for their pavement management programs. He stated that WSB is also recommending having a street improvement fund that will pay for crack filling and overlays so that type of work is not assessed.

The Council discussed possible assessments for various street improvement projects.

Mr. Gustafson explained the possibility of utilizing franchise fees and their advantages.

The Council discussed assessments for reconstruction projects and the advantages of doing larger projects as well as the CSAH 112 funds that may be available.

Weske noted that he has a meeting coming up with Abdo, Eick and Meyers regarding the long-term financial plan for the City. He commented that he has told them he wants to talk about the possibility of consolidating some funds. He stated that then he would have a good idea of the non-restricted cash that may be able to be moved around and used on some road maintenance.

Mayor Miner stated that he would like to have WSB come up with some options for moving forward.

Council member Skjaret asked what was included in the current budget for mill and overlay.

Weske noted that he includes \$50,000 to cover sealcoat projects.

There was a consensus of the Council that they would like more information on franchise fees and how it could be used for financing projects.

Begin Discussion of 2020 Utility Rate Options

Weske noted that he had sent this information to the Council via e-mail a few weeks ago. He stated that the goal is to try to come to a better way to break down the sewer fund because a big portion of the expenses are the Metropolitan Council fees. He explained some possible ways to differentiate the line items. He reviewed the proposed tiered rates for 2020.

The Council discussed ways to make the Metropolitan Council fee more transparent by separating it out differently. The Council discussed the idea of using tiered vs. a fixed rate for the Metropolitan Council fees. The Council discussed giving residents three to six months' notice of the fee change before it increases and making sure people understand that the increase is due to Metropolitan Council fees.

Weske stated that he will bring back some details on utility rates, as well as average bill amounts for residents.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 6:33 pm by general consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator