

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2006**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Orrock called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, Duane Langsdorf, Patricia May, and Donald Orrock. Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Finance Director Corey Boyer, Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, City Planner Ned Noel, City Planner Annie Deckert, City Engineer Brad DeWolf and Assistant City Engineer Jared Voge from Bolton and Menk.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Heitz motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

4. BUSINESS

4A. City Sidewalk Maintenance Discussion

Mike Goebel discussed the current locations maintained by City staff and asked for Council direction of future maintenance. Mr. Goebel also discussed the design of boulevard areas located along Powell Street, Washington Avenue, and Minnesota Avenue and indicated that snow can fall on the sidewalk area when the snow plow clears the streets due to the small size of the boulevard area. Mr. Goebel discussed the process his department follows when property owners do not clean their sidewalk areas in an appropriate amount of time. He discussed that he has not previously fined property owners for violation of City Ordinance, but that he has billed them for service when public works has had to go out and clear their area of the sidewalk.

Council asked if the City has the necessary equipment to maintain sidewalks. Mr. Goebel indicated that the City does have equipment capable of plowing sidewalk areas but that damage to property is a possibility due to the size of the equipment in relation to the width of the sidewalk area.

Council discussed the bids that were sent out in 2004. Mayor Orrock explained that contractors did not bid due to liability concerns and the potential of being involved in property and landscaping damage complaints. Brad DeWolf informed Council that a majority of cities do not maintain sidewalks except in main route areas.

Holly Freschette – 840 Powell Street, discussed her experiences with trying to keep the sidewalk adjacent to her property cleared of snow after the snow plow clears the street.

Council directed staff to make a conscious effort to try to keep the snow plow from putting large amounts of snow on the sidewalk while they are plowing and suggested to Ms. Freschette to hold a neighborhood meeting to discuss assisting one another with clearing sidewalk areas. Council also directed staff to include information in the next newsletter on local organizations willing to assist individuals with sidewalk maintenance.

4B. Proposed 2007 Street Improvements

Brad DeWolf reviewed the proposed layout for the 2007 Street and Utility Improvements, which includes street and utility improvements to Ormsbee Street, and Monroe Street. Mr. DeWolf also discussed right-of-way widths, proposed street widths of 26 feet on Monroe and 32 feet on Ormsbee, sidewalk locations, and Municipal State Aid and Sherburne County funding.

Council directed staff to hold an open house at the end of November to allow property owners to review plans and discuss the project with the engineering staff.

4C. Extension of Infrastructure/Transportation Plan

Brad DeWolf discussed potential future infrastructure extensions and reviewed the West Side Transportation Study, the East Side Transportation Study, the Trunk Highway 10 Bypass Alignment Map, and the Sanitary Sewer Comprehensive Plan. Discussion was also held on future collector road locations and the feasibility of servicing residential properties along the Mississippi River. Mr. DeWolf discussed the low pressure sewer system that would be needed in this area to provide services.

Corey Boyer discussed funding for the extension of utilities and informed Council that staff is continuing to monitor funding and reserve amounts.

5. OTHER

Administrator Johnson discussed scheduling the 2007 workshops. Council indicated a start of 6:00 p.m. would work for upcoming workshops.

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Kampa motioned to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Heitz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
City Clerk

11/08/06
Date Approved By Council