

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021
9:00 A.M. – CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake held a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2021. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Dave Nevin, John Andrews, Marcia Seibert-Volz, and Aaron Herzog. Dave Schrupp was present via Zoom. Also present were City Administrator Mike Lyonais, City Clerk Char Nelson, Park Director TJ Graumann, Public Works Director Ted Strand, Fire Chief Chip Lohmiller, Police Chief Erik Lee, and City Engineer Phil Martin. Echo Journal Reporter Nancy Vogt attended via Zoom. There were approximately 13 people in the audience and on Zoom.

1. Dave Nevin called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.
2. Mr. Nevin stated that he thinks the road projects are being rushed and he would like to table them and to hold the public hearings in June, when more people are here to attend. Mr. Nevin stated that items that need to be addressed are the bike path on Harbor Lane, the approach to CSAH 16 on Rushmoor Blvd, and drainage on Whitefish Ave. Ted Strand stated that he and WSN are aware of all these issues, which will be addressed in the next phase of designs. Mr. Nevin stated that he does not think the City disclosed the projects to the public in a timely manner. Aaron Herzog noted that when the assessment policy was being developed, all meetings were open to the public. Ted Strand stated that the Council approved the assessment policy 18 months ago and the City can either charge assessments or raise taxes. Dave Nevin stated that it was unfortunate that the property owners on Manhattan Point Blvd and Anchor Point Rd were not assessed a few years ago. Many property owners on Whitefish Ave stated that it was not fair that they had an assessment now, when their neighbors didn't have to pay a few years ago.

A discussion ensued regarding the use of chip sealing rather than overlay. Dave Nevin stated that he had a representative of Anderson Brothers drive the roads with him and the representative told him that Birch Narrows Road was in good shape and could be improved with an overlay, rather than a reclamation.

Doug Vierzba, Chair of the Public Works Commission, stated that the commission started reviewing the projects early last year and that the Council didn't decide until the end of 2020 to proceed with the projects. Mr. Vierzba noted that an informational letter was sent with the notices and if the Council delays the projects, public meetings could be held in the Fall for 2022 projects. Dave Nevin stated that the City was condemned for holding the public meetings in February and that he thinks the City blindsided the property owners. Doug Vierzba stated that he was the city engineer in Coon Rapids for 38 years and that there was no cost to the residents for reconstruction for many years, however, the city couldn't do that forever. Mr. Vierzba noted that the residents complained for a few years that it wasn't fair but eventually

they got over it and assessments are now expected. Mr. Vierzba stated that using an appraiser to determine benefit was helpful.

City Engineer Phil Martin stated that he did not like the City's process for road projects. Mr. Martin suggested starting the whole process much earlier in the year and suggested using social media as a means to communicate with the public. Mr. Martin stated that he agreed that the four roads suggested to be reclaimed should be reclaimed and not overlaid. Mr. Martin suggested that the City obtain an easement on Harbor Lane. Mr. Martin stated that he would want to tackle the problem areas on the roads before making the designs, which could take several months.

Public Works Commission Member Tom Swenson addressed the Council and stated that during his time as Administrator, the City began project planning in the summer, held hearings in October, had plans by November and went out for bids in January and February. Mr. Swenson noted that this year, discussion of the assessment policy delayed the projects, noting that the Council did not approve the Capital Improvement Plan until September and waited until the final levy was approved before moving forward. Mr. Swenson stated that if these projects get added to next year's schedule, the project will be huge. Dave Nevin stated that there was no urgency to get the roads done. Tom Swenson stated that life is not fair and that Manhattan Point Blvd and Anchor Point Rd projects are in the past. The City cannot afford to not assess. Mr. Swenson added that it has been the same argument with the sewer extension, that the residents feel they should not have to pay an assessment because the residents on Phase 1 did not pay an assessment. Mr. Swenson added that the City needs to draw a line in the sand and stick to it.

Tim Kavanaugh of 12195 Harbor Lane stated that he thinks the process should start earlier and that the Council needs to remember that it is the people's money when they are making decisions.

Marcia Seibert-Volz stated that the City should obtain land on Harbor Lane for an easement before the road improvement is done and stated that the City needs to start assessing for improvements and that it is never a good time for that. Aaron Herzog suggested chip sealing Whitefish Ave as a test to see how long it would last. Dave Schrupp stated that the Council needs to pay attention to deadline dates, needs to decide whether or not to assess, needs to believe the engineer or not, and needs to determine cutoff dates for projects. Phil Martin stated that he would begin the timeline by setting the date to go out for bids in January 2022 and working the timeline backwards from there. Phil Martin stated that he and staff should review the roads the beginning of spring and determine the priority for road improvements. The Public Works Commission should recommend to the Council which roads get done. Dave Schrupp asked that Phil Martin provide a schedule to the commission in March.

MOTION 02SP2-01-21 WAS MADE BY DAVE SCHRUPP AND SECONDED BY AARON HERZOG TO DELAY THE 2021 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

UNTIL 2022. ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

MOTION 02SP2-02-21 WAS MADE BY DAVE SCHRUPP AND SECONDED BY JOHN ANDREWS TO DIRECT BOLTON & MENK TO WORK WITH MIKE LYONAIIS AND TED STRAND TO START WORKING ON THE PROJECTS WHERE THEY HAVE LEFT OFF AND TO MAKE A TIME TABLE FOR THE COUNCIL TO FOLLOW FOR FUTURE PROJECTS. ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Dave Nevin stated that the City should let the property owners decide whether to get a new mailbox post. Doug Vierzba stated that the Council should decide soon whether to build a trail on Harbor Lane because they will need to obtain right-of-way and the cost for the City could be considerable. Dave Nevin suggested asking the property owners if they want a trail or not.

Neal Bailey of 11941 Whitefish Ave stated that it was bad that the City surprised the residents about the road improvements and that the assessment policy should be looked at because it was not fair.

3. Char Nelson asked if the Council wanted cordless microphones so that the Council can speak from tables during the joint meetings with the Public Works Commission. The Council agreed that they would use the podium to call the meeting to order and to speak during the meeting. Mike Lyonais asked if the Council would be making decisions at the joint meetings and the Council agreed that no decisions would be made until a regular meeting.
4. Mike Lyonais stated that Bolton & Menk would need to make a request to Widseth to obtain information on projects. Phil Martin stated that requests for information will take time for Widseth to compile and that there will be a charge for that service. Dave Schrupp suggested using Widseth for the 2025 Connectivity Project with the County. Mike Lyonais stated that he would let the Council know if funding for that project was approved.
5. Mike Lyonais gave an update on GASB 54 which started in 2009 and reviewed the City's fund balance policy which was developed in 2011. Mr. Lyonais noted that the accounting software is not setup to automatically track the fund balances so it is done manually. Mr. Lyonais reviewed the current capital improvement fund balances through December 2020, noting that staff is still receiving 2020 payables and the database will not be updated until 2020 is closed out. Mr. Lyonais invited the Council to meet with him if they wanted more details.

A brief discussion ensued regarding sewer capital improvements and costs, carryover for road improvements, and the fund balance policy. The Council discussed the balance of the public works bridge account. Mr. Lyonais stated that the Council can change or move the funds. Mr. Lyonais noted that the spreadsheet does not include

the sewer fund. Marica Seibert-Volz stated that the Public Works Commission thinks there is \$150,000 set aside for projects.

Tom Swenson stated that the Public Works Commission has the impression that \$150,000 was put in a restricted account for sewer projects. Mr. Swenson suggested that the Council assign \$150,000 now for the sewer capital outlay projects and suggested that the Council review this spreadsheet at least quarterly. Mike Lyonais stated that it is the Council's decision set aside funds and that the only thing levied for in the sewer fund was to debt payments. Dave Schrupp suggested that Ted Strand work with Phil Martin to determine the cost of the capital sewer projects and to bring that amount to the next meeting so that the Council can determine the amount to set aside.

6. There being no further business at 11:10 A.M., MOTION 02SP2-03-21 WAS MADE BY MARCIA SEIBERT-VOLZ AND SECONDED BY AARON HERZOG TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charlene Nelson
City Clerk