



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
January 15, 2008

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE

New City Council member Jim Benson took the Oath of Office, witnessed by City Clerk Moeller.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sam Rettinger, Sharon Henderson, Ben Goodwin, Ken Hammerschmidt

Staff Present: City Administrator: Steve Stahmer; Finance Director: Terry Post; Public Works Director: Marv Wurzer; City Attorney: Joel Jamnik; City Engineers: Dan Boxrud, Jay Murzyn, Toby Muse; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

*A motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Benson, to approve the Agenda as presented.
Ayes: all.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2008 Street Reconstruction Project

Mayor Gilbert initiated the discussion, stating that he was concerned about the financial impact of conducting a street reconstruction project on both project area and City residents.

Toby Muse, engineer with SEH, provided a review of the feedback received from project area residents at a recent neighborhood meeting. Primarily the concerns voiced pertained to potential loss of trees and plantings, and how access to properties would be maintained through the duration of the project.

Engineer Jay Murzyn indicated that similar to the last street improvement project, it was anticipated that the average assessment to affected properties would be approximately \$6,000.

Stahmer and Post reviewed how assessments would be calculated for individual properties consistent with the City's special assessment policy; what payment options would be available to assessed properties; and observed that the debt service levy for the project would likely result in an approximate taxation increase of \$67 for the median value home.

Murzyn outlined the purpose of the public improvement hearing versus the special assessment hearing for the project, and emphasized that the project could be cancelled at any point

Mayor and Council discussed assessments to corner lots in the project area, and when future improvements to Grand Avenue and Watertown Road would be scheduled.

Council member Benson stated his concern that if the project were approved prior to the February 12 School District special election, it could negatively affect the School District's referendum request.

Discussion of the election reminded Council and staff that the first Council meetings of both February and March would need to be rescheduled due to Minnesota's precinct caucuses. Availability was tentatively discussed for alternate meeting dates.

Mayor Gilbert asked that the engineers' presentation be abbreviated for the purpose of tonight's meeting, noting that in his opinion the project could move forward if no overwhelming feedback was received.

OTHER BUSINESS

TIF Public Discussion – Mayor Gilbert stated his view of the purpose for the TIF public discussion item on the upcoming regular meeting agenda was just to educate residents on what TIF district funds can actually be used for. Stahmer informed the Council he would have a PowerPoint presentation for the meeting.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the January 15, 2008, City Council Work Session at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk