



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 7, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sharon Henderson, Ben Goodwin, Jim Benson

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: Council: Sam Rettinger (with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Gilbert noted that the sign variance application and Wayzata Boulevard landscaping discussion were removed from the regular meeting agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of January 15, 2008 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of January 15, 2008 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Minutes of January 24, 2008 City Council Interview Meeting
- D. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- E. Adopt Ordinance No. 2008-03 Adopting the City Fee Schedule with Inclusion of Updated Water Meter and Related Equipment Pricing
- F. Adopt Resolution 2008-13 Acknowledging the City Administrator's Evaluation of Administrative Assistant Sandey Elzea
- G. Adopt Resolution No. 2008-11 Approving Setting the 2008 Fire Department Pension
- H. Adopt Resolution No. 2008-10 Approving the Extension of the GIS Conditional Use License with Hennepin County
- I. Adopt Resolution No. 2008-12 Authorizing Submittal of the 2008 Municipal Recycling Grant Application, Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Hennepin County

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

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

Mayor Gilbert announced that a 10-speed bicycle had been left at City Hall after the last Council meeting. He asked that the owner of the bike please stop by City Hall to claim it.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Public Improvement Hearing: 2008 Street Improvement Project

Stahmer stated that as part of the City's Pavement Management Plan, a significant street reconstruction project is scheduled to occur every three years. The last street project was conducted in 2005, resulting in a total cost of \$1.1 million with the City selling \$650,000 in bonds to finance the balance of the project.

In July 2007 the City Council ordered a Feasibility Study to be conducted by the City Engineer. The report investigated the feasibility of reconstructing Inglewood Street south of Grand Avenue, and Nielson Avenue, to include water and storm water improvements as necessary. The Council took action on January 15, 2008 accepting the report and scheduled the public improvement hearing for February 7, 2008.

Per the City Engineer, the project has an estimated cost of \$1,283,000. Of that total, approximately \$247,000 is estimated to come from special assessments with the remainder divided between the Water Fund, the Storm Water Fund and the General Fund. Staff has estimated that a bond of approximately \$700,000 is likely to be needed, depending upon final bids and prepaid assessment amounts which are yet to be determined.

Staff and the City Engineer held a neighborhood meeting with the affected residents on September 20, 2007. The results of that meeting were largely positive.

Remaining milestones in the schedule include:

- Public Improvement Hearing (this meeting)
- Completion of Plans and Specs/Authorization to Solicit Bids
- Bidding
- Assessment Hearing/Award Contract
- Construction of the Improvements

Mayor Gilbert opened the public hearing at 6:37 pm.

Toby Muse, SEH, welcomed the residents in attendance and introduced City and engineering staff members. He provided a Powerpoint presentation to review the details of current road conditions and the proposed street and utility improvements. Muse and Jay Murzyn clarified the City's method for calculating special assessments.

Chuck Moberg, 58 Inglewood Street, asked how residents would pay for their assessments.

Finance Director Post responded that once the assessment roll is adopted, property owners will have 30 days to pay their assessments in full without finance charges. After that time, the assessment can be paid off in full with interest prior to November 15, 2008. If not paid in full, the assessment would be added to property tax rolls to be divided over a 10 year period. At any time during the 10 year period, property owners would have the ability to prepay their assessment if they wished to do so.

Ken Hammerschmidt, 2103 Neilson Avenue, noted watermain replacement had not been recommended along all of Neilson Avenue and wondered how it was determined the newer watermain section left untouched would last the life of the improved road.

Murzyn responded that the criteria for replacement of a watermain is the record of breaks. The older pipe section is in need of replacement; however, the newer pipe section continues to serve well. In the future the roadway's asphalt will need to be replaced, and the timing could work well with replacement of the watermain when needed.

Wurzer also clarified that the reason this particular section of watermain was recommended to remain is that it is a ductile iron pipe with slip joints, rather than the old mechanical joints. The pipe was constructed to bend rather than crack, suggesting it will last longer.

Adam Holmes, 2130 Neilson Avenue, asked if cost overruns on the project would be passed along to residents.

Post replied that they would not.

City Attorney Jamnik provided a review of the method used to calculate special assessments in greater detail, and highlighted potential rationale and the process for objections to proposed assessments.

Council member Benson stated that the average assessed amount based on his own calculations would be approximately \$6,600.

Paul Staack, 50 Harrington Drive, asked whether residents could vote on the project; why interest would apply to payment; and why funds were not budgeted to complete the project.

The City Attorney responded that residents could not vote on the project but could provide their input to the Council through the public hearing process. Following the hearing, the Council would make their decision. He also stated that interest applied to the assessed amount because the city would be financing the project through bonds – in effect, the City serves as a secondary bank or financial mechanism for the property owner.

Mayor Gilbert explained that some funds had been set aside for the street project. However, to add perspective, he noted that a street project of this size exceeds the City's levy in any given year. A big portion of this project over the next ten years would be paid for by all City residents as well as those directly affected.

Hearing no additional comments or questions, Mayor Gilbert closed the public hearing at 7:07 pm.

A motion was made by Goodwin, seconded by Benson, to adopt Resolution No. 2008-14 ordering street and utility improvements on Inglewood Street, south of Grand Avenue and Nielson Avenue and ordering plans and specifications. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor's Coffee Meeting – Mayor Gilbert extended an open invitation to join him for coffee and treats at the Country Cake Cupboard on Saturday, February 23 at 9:00 am.

Standard Street Size – Mayor Gilbert suggested that the City's standard street size of 32 feet be changed to be consistent with the standard of 28 feet applied in recent street projects. Stahmer responded that he would ask the Public Works Director and City Engineer to draft a memo clarifying the street size standard. City Engineer Boxrud explained that the standard 32 foot street width was established to apply to streets at the time of new development; but the majority of city streets were

28 feet wide. However, it was their opinion that widening the existing 28 foot streets would not be worthwhile.

New Equipment Delivered – Public Works Director Wurzer reported that the new tractor had been delivered and it was a great piece of equipment.

Holbrook Park Rinks – Mayor Gilbert complimented the Public Works Department on their efforts to maintain ice in great condition at the Holbrook Park skating rinks. He encouraged residents to come down and use the skating facilities.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk