



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
March 18, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Goodwin at 5:40 pm.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert (arrived shortly after meeting was called to order);
Council: Ben Goodwin, Jim Benson, Sharon Henderson

Staff Present: City Administrator: Steve Stahmer; Consultant: Brady Halverson (SEH)

Absent: Council: Sam Rettinger (with notice)

APPROVE AGENDA

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

TH12 Landscaping Discussion

Halverson discussed changes that were made in the plan since the last meeting. He distributed the draft plan which now includes specific plant species and a revised cost estimate. Primary changes were removing the two streetlights, keeping uprights in the tree planters and changing the retaining walls to a field stone character.

Halverson discussed the pros and cons of different retaining wall/planter options.

Resident Cindy Borgert asked whether there was any concern with frost heave regarding the dry stack stone option.

Halverson stated that heaving wasn't a significant concern, but that dry stack walls do require a good deal of maintenance and do not have as "clean" a look.

Benson asked about the possibility of modular concrete block walls.

Halverson stated that, while they are less expensive, they were ruled out by the Council because they would not match the character of the corridor/city.

Goodwin stated that he preferred the concrete walls with natural stone veneer and was in favor of doing the project right in the long term.

Halverson noted that the irrigation system had been removed due to cost considerations (estimated at \$50,000).

Mayor Gilbert noted that the soils should be investigated to make sure that the plantings and other elements will work well in the area.

The Council consensus was that faux stone was not an acceptable product for the corridor. Halverson noted that faux stone looks good from afar at a high speed (e.g., within the TH12 Bypass corridor), but that up close, near a sidewalk, it was not as attractive, and also requires maintenance as it ages.

Mayor Gilbert asked whether solar lighting could be used/investigated for the uprights.

Halverson stated that he would check into solar lighting, and he also recommended considering LED lighting due to longevity.

Cindy Borgert asked about the location of plantings.

Halverson stated that prairie plantings and short grass would be used to fill in open spaces. Taller shrubs would be behind the prairie plantings, next to the wall.

Halverson stated that "no-mow" grass may be considered, with wildflower drifts distributed along the segment.

The Council liked the idea of no-mow grass and wildflower drifts being used in the area.

The Consensus of the Council was to revise the plan to include no-mo grass with wildflower drifts. The final bid specifications should call for multiple wall options and an irrigation system to be included as alternates for bidding purposes. Solar and other lighting will also be considered.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Pro Tem Goodwin adjourned the March 18, 2008, City Council Work Session at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Stahmer
City Administrator