

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING - WORK SESSION - AUGUST 19, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following Council Members present: Scott Nelson, Diane Graber, Mike Harmon, Rod Sankey, Larry Janssen (7:03 a.m.).

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering; Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Justine Wettschreck, KWOA; Kristin Kirtz, Daily Globe.

ANNEXATION DISCUSSION

Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development, stated that back in February Council directed staff to look in to annexation of the area directly south of town bounded by the current corporate limits and the newly relocated Highway 59/60. The area is approximately 80 acres. Mr. Chapulis stated that the 80 acres contains approximately 37 acres of public right-of-way, farmland and two residences, and he noted annexation can occur by one of two methods - by ordinance or by orderly annexation. An annexation study provided by Mr. Chapulis provided information on the requirements for each method, street and road maintenance costs, utility services, police and fire services, zoning/land use, and projected revenues.

The area is not included in the current orderly annexation map, nor is it included in the City's 2004 Comprehensive Plan. Without a property owner within the study area requesting annexation, annexation of the study area, or a portion of it, must be completed through an orderly annexation agreement with Worthington Township. Since the study area is not currently in an orderly annexation area, the City must complete the following tasks to justify consideration of the annexation:

- Commence an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan to reflect the City's intentions to promote urban development in the subject area. Amending such also provides validation of any consideration of annexation.
- Negotiate a new Orderly Annexation Agreement with Worthington Township. With the existing agreement with Worthington Township being over 40 years old and not reflective of the current growth patterns of Worthington, entering into a new agreement with each is warranted. The new agreement should identify an area for immediate annexation as well as future annexation. The future annexation area should mirror the growth boundaries outlined the City's comp plan. The City should consider doing the same with Lorain Township, though it is not located in the study area.

Mr. Chapulis cautioned that annexation will give the perception of the City's ability to provide public infrastructure services, which it is not at this time. It is staff's recommendation that the City complete the tasks stated and begin to financially plan for the public infrastructure (Phase I).

The motion was made by Council Member Graber and seconded by Council Member Nelson that we move to do it. Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said no motion was requested but staff was looking for a consensus from Council on the direction they were looking to move regarding potential annexation of the area. Council Member Graber rescinded her motion, with Council Member Nelson agreeing and rescinding his second. Staff will proceed with the tasks stated.

GRAND AVENUE EXTENSION PROJECT DISCUSSION

Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering, provided a handout that included background information on the Grand Avenue Street and Sidewalk Extension project and what has transpired so far. The information also listed three options for proceeding on the project to include the additional extension to Darling Drive:

- 1) Reinitiate all Improvements - this would mean abandoning the improvements as ordered on June 22, 2015 to the north line of the SWMHP and mall properties and reconsidering the Grand Avenue extension in its entirety. Mr. Haffield said this option would add risk to proceeding with the improvements already approved.
- 2) Initiate the Additional Extensions on a Schedule Intended to Allow Combination for Bidding with Improvements Already Approved - Mr. Haffield presented a schedule that would “fast track” the additional project to allow the additional extensions to be bid on the schedule desired for the improvements already approved.
If this schedule would falter, only the combination of the improvements would be at risk, rather than delaying the immediately needed improvements. Staff said this is the most viable option for Council to consider for the additional extensions, and I & S has stated it can meet this schedule.
- 3) Initiate the Additional Extensions on a Schedule Lagging the Improvements Already Approved - This would be a “fall back” option if the schedule in Option 2 could not be met, however, if the goal is to have the extensions bid together, this option does not satisfy that goal.

The goal would be to bid it as one package, with an alternate bid for the additional extension. Mr. Haffield said no Council action was necessary at this time, they only needed to determine if they were interested in bringing the project to hearing. Council consensus was to move forward with the hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Graber and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 a.m.