

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Aldermen present: Lyle Ten Haken, Mike Woll, Ron Wood, Mike Kuhle, Bob Petrich. Alderman Elect: Scott Nelson.

Staff present: Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Peter Harff and Jim Swanson, MnDOT.

MnDOT UPDATE/DISCUSSION

Jim Swanson, MnDOT District 7 Engineer, thanked Council for their work, noting MnDOT will be asking for a resolution in the future approving what they are doing. Things are moving along rapidly, and funding is set up to start the project in 2010. MnDOT is requesting approval for installing a concrete section from I-90 to County 35. Mr. Swanson said they need to do that by exception or they would have to go through a pavement determination. Their goal is to be completely open with the City and not take anyone by surprise.

Peter Harff discussed the time line for the project, noting it will start in 2010 south of town, and will start in 2011 on the piece from Paul Avenue to County Highway 35, with an overlap between the two. They will start the north end of the project from County Highway 35 in 2012, with an overlap between those segments also. They'll finish up the end in 2013. Getting ready for detours will require additional work in different areas, and Council should expect complaints as urban projects create a mess. They will be meeting with both the City and County Engineers on December 2nd for their concerns regarding detours and accessibility issues. They will maintain access for people, although it may be muddy and inconvenient. The December 2nd meeting is a public meeting at the Farmers Room in the Nobles County Government Center just to make contact with the public again. They will need municipal consent for all three phases - they will produce a layout for whole stretches of corridor. Mr. Harff stated he wanted Council to take the information from today and consider it at a future Council meeting for approval of the resolution of support, and added if they could get Council support for the concrete section mentioned by Mr. Swanson they could avoid the analysis. Concrete is the way to go in urban areas as it requires less maintenance, especially with a lot of truck traffic.

MnDOT is working on Right of Way and acquisition and have not identified all the land they need to acquire yet. They have, however, started on the relocations now regarding the properties they have identified to have less of a slam on the market. MnDOT is actually renting one of the trailers in the East Acres Trailer Park. They have hired Wilson Development Services to take them through the closing of the trailer park. They will be responsible for sending out notices and holding a couple of meetings with the residents and the City, providing translation services, and get set up for a public hearing at a Council meeting. There must be a nine month notice prior to closing. MnDOT's study shows there are enough rentals available in the city to relocate those renters. Alderman Ten Haken stated his surprise at that statement.

The layout of Armour Road was discussed, which will have a new curve with some free rights to avoid the roundabouts. Yellow flashing LED lights will slow traffic down before getting to the roundabouts. Splitter islands will be used at crosswalks, but the aim is to not attract pedestrians at that area. A number of bike paths and trails will be added, however all trails will be maintained by the City. In addition, any other trails connecting to MnDOT's trails will be at our expense. Access roads to the frontage road by Graham Tire will be cut to one and the road will dead end. The Kragness Avenue frontage road near the intersection of Okabena Street will be paved, which Council noted was a good trade for eliminating the median opening there. The intersection with County Highway 35 will be a roundabout. Mr. Harff noted that Larson Crane has approved the closing of their road to the West. Extensive discussion was held on storm water issues in that area, with Dwayne Haffield stating the lack of urban drainage has stopped the City from upgrading the Kragness Avenue area. The area near Shine's is still under discussion on whether the existing intersection will be left alone, if the City will deal with it later, or whether it will be an improved curve, which would require a lot of pavement and would be very costly. A lengthy discussion was held on the Flower Lane intersection. Several Council members suggested we fight hard to keep that crossing.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Alderman Wood, seconded by Alderman Woll and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Janice Oberloh
City Clerk