

EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 3, 2010

The East Bethel City Council met on March 3, 2010 at 7:30 PM for their regular meeting at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Boyer Steven Channer Greg Hunter
 Kathy Paavola Steve Voss

ALSO PRESENT: Douglas Sell, City Administrator
 Bill Goodrich, Acting City Attorney
 Craig Jochum, City Engineer

Call to Order **The March 3, 2010 City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Hunter at 7:30 PM.**

Adopt Agenda **Boyer made a motion to adopt the March 3, 2010 City Council agenda. Voss seconded; all in favor, motion carries.**

Public Forum Hunter opened the Public Forum for any comments or concerns that were not listed on the agenda. There were no comments so the public forum was closed.

Consent Agenda **Boyer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda including: A) Approve Bills; B) Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2010, Regular CC Meeting; C) Ordinance 21, Second Series, Amending Chapter 2, Article 4, Division 1, Section 2-71 Advisory Bodies and Appendix A – Zoning, Section 03, Establishments of Commissions of the City Code; D) Memorandum of Agreement – Specialty Pay; E) Approve Cable Technician Job Description and Direction to Advertise; F) Sunset Road – JPA Project – Linwood Township Agreement. Voss seconded; all in favor, motion carries.**

Wild Rice Drive NE Project – Trees/Curb Cost Comparison Sell explained that at the February 17, 2010 Council meeting, staff was directed to review the cost difference between removing trees on the north end of the Wild Rice Drive reconstruction project as shown on the current plans as compared to constructing additional concrete curb and gutter in an attempt to save a number of trees along this route.

The required clear zone based on State Aid Operation Rules for the current ditch design is 32 feet from the centerline of the roadway. Applying this standard, all trees within 32 feet of the centerline and all trees that interfere with the ditch construction would be cleared. With the construction of curb and gutter the clear zone reduces to 21.5 feet from the centerline of the roadway or 2 feet from the face of the curb.

The location of the proposed addition curb is shown on Attachment 2. Construction of the curb and elimination of the ditch in this area will save approximately 9 red oak trees which are 12 to 24 inches in diameter. The net cost to add the concrete curb and gutter and associated improvements as shown on Attachment 2 is \$3,269.

The additional cost to add the concrete curb and gutter and associated improvements is \$3,269. These additional costs would be financed with the City's Municipal State Aid Construction Funds. Funds are available for this additional project work.

Staff is requesting direction regarding construction of the additional curb and gutter as

presented above.

Boyer made a motion to approve the additional expenditure of \$3,269 for the additional concrete curb and gutter as shown on attachment #2 and associated improvements for the Wild Rice Drive NE Reconstruction Project financed from the City's Municipal State Aid Construction Fund. Paavola seconded.

Channer asked what is the difference, curb and gutter and clear and grub, the difference in cost. Jochum said about \$600. He said for the whole project to clear and grub it is costing about \$6,000. Channer asked how close are the trees to the curb. He said his concern is we will kill the trees anyways. Channer said we can put in curb and gutter and kill the trees anyways. Hunter said yes, oaks are weird that way.

Channer asked what about the oak trees that are specifically slated here, the ones south of the driveway, are we trying to save them. Jochum said those are slated for removal. Channer asked about the north end of it, he doesn't know if we are gaining anything. He said we are going to spend \$3,269 and might kill the trees anyways. Channer said behind that area there are about 100 trees. He said north of that area is loaded with trees. Paavola asked are we talking about killing all the trees. Channer said he is really having a problem with this. He said it is not so pat for him. Channer said so we tried but then we have to go in and remove the trees we killed. Jochum said the property owner did come out when we went out to inspect and he said do what you can. He said the property owner is more concerned about the three trees to the south of his driveway. Channer said that is what he figured.

Paavola said so do we leave them or do they stay. She said if we put curb and gutter in they might die anyways. Hunter said with oaks, sometimes it kills them when you are 30 feet away and sometimes it doesn't. Boyer asked is this where we have all the flooding problems. Jochum said it is just south of there. He said another option would be to end the curb and gutter just north of there. Jochum said the water will go north. He said you would cut your cost 30% if you end your curb north of the driveway, but you might need to take some oaks down north of the driveway. Boyer asked will the curb have an impact on the water. Jochum said there is curb on the other side of the road to stay within the easement. He said there is a culvert on 204th Lane. Voss said he would rather put it in and if they die, they die. Channer said but then we have to take them down. Voss said but this is something we can do, we can take them down. Channer said he is thinking about the dollars here.

Channer, nay; Boyer, Hunter, Paavola, Voss, aye; motion carries.

Signal Project
Costs CR74 at
TH 65

Sell explained that in 2007, Anoka County applied for a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant that provided for a signalization project at the intersection of State Trunk Highway and 221st Avenue NE (County Road 74). Monies for the project were not approved in this funding round as the project did not receive the necessary ranking required for funding.

This project was submitted again for the 2009 funding cycle. The project ranked 4th out of 30 projects in the County that were considered for improvements. The project has been identified for funding estimated at \$1.2 million dollars as part of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 or 2014. Construction would include improvements to left turn lanes along Trunk Highway 65; addition of left turn lanes on County Road 74 and semaphores for this intersection. Construction under scheduled guidelines would begin in 2013 or 2014 depending on the County's schedule.

Recognizing the need to accelerate this project, City Council had discussed several options and directed staff to initiate discussions with the Anoka County Highway Department (ACHD) to examine alternatives to “fast track” the project. Staff discussed this matter with Mr. Doug Fischer, Anoka County Engineer. Mr. Fischer provided three options and associated costs for the project for Council review.

Option #1

The County would manage the entire project including all design, environmental, permits, inspection and construction activities. There would be no advance construction considerations under this option. The construction phase would be in 2013 or 2014.

Option #2

The County would manage the entire project including all design, environmental, permits, and construction activities. Inspection services would be contracted for at \$100,000 and, there would be a “financing charge” of \$30,000 for advancing the project one year into 2012. The City would be responsible for these additional costs of \$130,000.

Option #3

The County would manage the entire project but would contract for all design, environmental, permits, inspection and construction activities. These contracted services would be \$100,000 for inspection services, \$140,000 for design and environmental services, \$20,000 for ROW acquisition services and a “financing charge” of \$60,000 for advancing the project two years. The City would be responsible for these additional costs of \$280,000. This project would be completed in 2011.

The County has indicated that the construction cost of \$1.2 million includes \$120,000, 10%, in a local match. They have assumed that the City would contribute \$60,000 of the \$120,000 in addition to any other costs the County may incur for advancing this project. Under Option #1, the City would be responsible for only \$60,000. Under Option #2, the City would be responsible for the advance funding costs of \$130,000 plus the local match of \$60,000 or \$190,000. Under Option #3, the City would be responsible for the advance funding costs of \$280,000 plus the local match of \$60,000 or \$340,000.

It is interesting that this project could be delayed as far out as 2015 if the County schedules the project based on their perception of need. Further, that the City would be expected to invest up to \$340,000 in a road project that is at the intersection of a State Highway and a County Road if the project is moved to 2011. Council had indicated a willingness to share in the reasonable cost of advancing this project.

There are no funds available from City sources to fund the advance construction costs under Options #2 and #3. Bonds could be issued but there are no grant funds to reimburse the City for these costs. Staff is seeking direction from Council.

Voss said so if he understands this right, the reason they are asking the City to pay these costs is the county would use their staff. He said there is a three year savings why is that not reflected here. Hunter said it is a whole cost they want to put on the City. He said they are not giving us any benefit. Voss said he understands the bonding benefit. He said if we are doing the construction now instead of three years from now, why is there not a cost savings shown here. Channer said and if we are purchasing the property now instead of three years from now, there is even more of a cost savings.

Voss asked does the county not want this to happen now. Sell said it is not in any capital improvement project plan they have. He said they got grant money to do this and they want to do it in 2015. Channer said he did design work and usually you work on one project at a time. He said it is tough to do more than one project at a time. Boyer asked is it normal to be charged back like this. Jochum said when he thinks about the Wild Rice job, there are a lot more challenges, and we have 17% for engineering, testing, etc., theirs is on the high side. Sell said he doesn't think the land acquisition is on Hwy. 65, he thinks it is on the County Road. Boyer said this project is on a County Road and a State Highway, why are we being asked to pay 20% of the costs. Hunter said meanwhile we don't want to put a value on a life; we want to facilitate this project getting started as soon as possible.

Voss said in our first discussions with them they said if we would bond it to go ahead. Sell said under Option #3 you are looking at providing 30% of the funding for the project. Voss said he has a hard time providing anything other than the bonding for the job. He said he thinks this needs to be discussed with Commissioner Lang, Commissioner Berg because he is involved in transportation and Doug Fischer from the Anoka County Highway Department to see why they have changed their minds on this. Voss said he would like the City Administrator to set up a meeting with the three from the county and one council member and the city administrator. He said tell them we said yes to their request of were we willing to bond, and now why are they bumping up the cost to us.

Seasonal Employees

Sell explained that increased demands for road and park maintenance in the spring and through the early summer has traditionally required hiring of seasonal personnel to support these activities. Increased work load during this time on projects in parks and on streets along with scheduled leave time for full time employees creates a situation where the seasonal workers provide additional staff to assist in project and maintenance activities schedules.

During the upcoming spring and summer, there are park projects scheduled for Hidden Haven, Whispering Oaks, Maynard Peterson, Coon Lake Beach and Booster West which will require City personnel and equipment for completion. The extra staffing will enable the Department to complete the projects as well as ensure adequate maintenance for existing parks. Road projects include crack sealing, seal coating and overlay work on approximately eight miles of City streets. These projects are in addition to the normal maintenance activities that generally require the significant staff time.

To complete the work scheduled, staff is requesting approval to hire two seasonal employees to work from mid-May through the end of July 2010. These seasonal employees would permit the normal park and street maintenance to proceed while the more experienced staff work in those construction activities that require additional experience. Seasonal employees would also be used for general labor and to back up the schedule when full time personnel are scheduled for vacation. These positions are limited to approximately 13 weeks.

Funding for these positions in the amount of \$10,800 is provided for in the 2010 General Fund under the Parks Department budget. Staff is recommending approval to hire two seasonal works for the period mid-May to the end of July, 2010.

Boyer made a motion to authorize hiring two seasonal workers for the period mid-May to the end of July, 2010 in the amount of \$10,800. Paavola seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Fire
Department
Issues

Channer said he went to the Fire Department meeting on Monday and the sheriff's department was present and they discussed traffic management at accident scenes and who was in charge. He said this has never been worked out before. Channer said they will have training at the sheriff's office. He said we have asked that the sheriff's office take control when they get there. Channer said it went well and at least we got a discussion going.

Acknowledge
Staff

Voss said he wanted to acknowledge that the public works staff has been out there taking care of the roads. He said the ice is built up really bad and he has seen them out there on his street three times this week. Channer said yes, they sanded his street and it was a good thing because it is really bad out there.

Booster Day
Meeting

Hunter said we had a Booster Day meeting last week. He said we decided we are going to promote East Bethel businesses by offering them a free booth at Booster Day. Hunter said this is not a ploy to find home businesses in the City and make them register or anything. He said we just want to help them with their business and are giving them a free spot at Booster Day. Hunter said watch for more information in your City newsletter.

Adjourn

Boyer made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 PM. Paavola seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Attest:

Wendy Warren
Deputy City Clerk