

## MINUTES OF THE OKOBOJI CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2020

Mayor VanderWoude called the special meeting to order at 2:00PM on October 23, 2020. Councilmembers Delperdang, Mendenhall, Andres, and Robinson were present. Councilmember Hentges was excused. Others present were City Administrator Michael Meyers, City Engineer Brad Beck, Corey Harguth, Steve Andersen, Steve Schwaller, and Kae Hoppe.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor VanderWoude opened discussion on the potential Lakeshore Drive resurfacing and related projects. City Administrator Meyers gave an overview of the project. Meyers discussed that in the summer of 2020 the City Council requested additional information on financing and engineering of a resurfacing project for Lakeshore Drive. Meyers advised that all of the information was ready to go and that the City Council needed to provide direction to City Staff on how to move forward. Meyers felt that this was a time sensitive discussion in terms of financing and engineering. Meyers explained that the City should consider refinancing existing debt while issuing new debt in an effort to avoid paying bond fees twice. Meyers also advised that in an effort to meet a fall 2021 construction date that the engineering be completed fall 2020 prior to winter in anticipation for a spring 2021 bidding.

Councilmember Delperdang felt as though the project should not be delayed expressing concern over the condition of the street and the potential for the cost to grow if the street is not resurfaced. Brad Beck advised the street was last overlaid in 1995 and that generally an overlay is good for twenty years.

Councilmember Delperdang discussed with Steve Anderson, Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District Superintendent, about upcoming IGLSD projects and how that might impact the City's project. Delperdang felt as though both entities could work together in an effort to best utilize resources in an effort to not disrupt the street twice at the same location.

Steve Anderson gave an overview of the proposed IGLSD sewer relocation projects to take place in Okoboji including locations in Hayward's Bay, Echo Bay, and Des Moines Beach. Anderson advised that he felt the Hayward's Bay project was the most imminent and studies were underway.

Councilmembers discussed challenges working around the IGLSD projects as well as the Highway 71 project set to take place in 2023 and the potential detours through Okoboji potentially on a newly surfaced road.

Councilmember Delperdang felt that the City should consider continuing to seek the full-proposed bond amount but bid the Lakeshore Drive project out in separate divisions to allow more time for the IGLSD to formulate plans. Brad Beck agreed that the project be bid in divisions to allow the City to do the entire stretch or just segments allowing the City to appropriately react to the IGLSD projects.

Councilmember Andres expressed concern over the Highway 71 project and requested that the City secure a meeting with the Iowa DOT to discuss the proposed detour route. Andres advised that she wants to work closely with both the IGLSD and the Iowa DOT to have as minimal disruption to the community as possible.

City Administrator Meyers discussed the other projects that were considering as part of this proposed bond. The first of which was an off-lake trail extension from the intersection of Nature Center Road

and Lakeshore drive to Tarzan Street along Omaha Beach. The other was the resurfacing and expansion of the Speier Park parking lot.

Councilmember Robinson inquired about the property owners along Omaha Beach who may be affected. Meyers advised that he has not yet reached out to the property owners as the trail portion of the project was still to be discussed by the Council. Meyers advised if the Council desired to move forward that he would reach out to the property owners to discuss.

Councilmember Delperdang expressed that the trail was in reaction to safety issues of walkers and cyclists on Lakeshore Drive. Delperdang advised that the constriction of right-of-way on Lakeshore Drive makes alternative options more difficult. Delperdang wondered if the cost of the project would be worth it.

Councilmember Mendenhall advised that the trail project could snowball into a larger connection potentially eventually connecting to Highway 71 and Sanborn Avenue alleviating many of the walkability issues within the City. Mendenhall also expressed that he felt this was a dangerous stretch of Lakeshore Drive and that it would enhance the safety of this area.

Councilmember Robinson agreed with the need to enhance safety at this location.

Councilmember Andres discussed the Speier Park parking lot expansion. Andres wondering if this was needed. City Administrator Meyers advised that the increased use of Speier Park that parking is becoming more limited. Meyers advised that he felt the parking lot needed an overlay but did not believe the expansion was absolutely necessary. Meyers advised that he felt like the existing footprint of the parking lot could likely be better utilized and restriped to provide for additional parking stalls.

City Administrator Meyers advised that the process for bonding is several meetings long and that the City would have ample time to potentially revise if needed or if certain parts of the project were to be dropped from consideration. Meyers advised that the Finance Committee had recommended \$3.15 million in funding for these projects of which \$3 million would be bonded and \$150,000.00 be utilized from the General Fund. Meyers advised that the total cost of all the aforementioned projects would be about \$225,000.00 more than that number. Meyers advised that this would have to be figured into the funding equation.

Motion made by Councilmember Robinson and a second by Councilmember Mendenhall to direct City Staff to continue to pursue financing and to direct Beck Engineering to begin on the necessary fieldwork for these projects. The following Councilmembers voted "YEA": Delperdang, Robinson, Mendenhall, Andres. Motion passed 4-0.

Mayor VanderWoude asked City Administrator Meyers to update on the public works roofing project. Meyers advised of HVAC issues and advised that he was going to have HVAC curbs installed as the new roof was being installed in an effort to set the City up for a further solution in FY22 when funds became available. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 PM.

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Mayor Mary VanderWoude

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Michael Meyers, City Administrator