

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING – WORKING SESSION**

**JANUARY 29, 2014**

Mayor Jeff Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Kay McDaniel, Donavan Mayer, Jean Soine, and Gene Beavers (6:05 p.m.). Others present were Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; Jennifer Welling, Administrative Assistant; and Chuck DeWolf, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

**Motion was made by Mayer to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Soine and unanimously carried.**

**DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION**

The Council discussed the City buying into taking down non-used buildings and building new buildings.

The Council discussed the following:

- EDAP commitment – buy out loans, freeze loans, etc.
- Federal grants
- EDAP can get funds for revitalization
- Bring this to the EDAP Board for discussion
- Legal ramification to freeze loans
- Inventory of buildings and locations
- What kind of businesses does the City want downtown
- Compare what happened in the Industrial Park and do it in the downtown district
- Making businesses a point of destination, a reason to come downtown
- Concerns:
  - No specifications on loans, buildings, and groups of people
  - Not the City's business to bring in business, but to do the infrastructure
- EDAP has a roll to bring business to town and provide incentives
- Number of buildings consumed by storage
- Hours of operation of businesses downtown
- Retail incubator

**TRUCK ROUTE**

Beavers would like the City to explore the idea of a truck route as there are a number of big trucks rolling down James St. and Washburne Ave. and it does not fit into the atmosphere. Designate a truck route for such. Most trucks are milk trucks with some delivery trucks.

Thompson stated the City can make a designated truck route, but it has to make sense and be enforceable.

The traffic has been cut down due to the bypass. It was suggested to take this to the Public Works and Public Safety Committees. The Public Works Committee looked at a truck route and signage was discussed.

It was also suggested to enforce the jake breaking ordinance. There is signage at both ends of the City. The worst area is the curve near the Grace United Methodist Church. Eckerly will visit with Wegner.

The alignment of Lake Ave. was discussed with the possibility of trucks going straight across. Feed Co. built so in case the City changed their mind they would be okay. The roads are in good shape and Minnie St. is on the 2015 street reconstruction schedule.

## **RIVER TRAIL**

Mayer wanted to get the Council's interest on this. Both the City and Trails guards own property along the river. This was brought up at the Trail Board meeting; however, not much was said.

Mergen mentioned that this could tie into the Glacial & Koronis trail systems. The Glacial Trail is up to Roscoe and then to Co. Rd. 33 south or along 295<sup>th</sup> and then downward. Tying all trails together would be desirable for bikers to come into town. The trail could be a downtown destination.

Eckerly noted that the City's trail is not a designated DNR trail to get on state information brochures. The Glacial Lakes Trail is owned by the DNR.

There was some discussion on a trail under the Lake Ave. Bridge. It was suggested that this be put on the Trail Board agenda and invite a DNR representative to the meeting. It was further suggested that DeWolf create a concept drawing of the proposed trail and the property owners along it.

## **REDESIGN OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayer would like assistance with a design. The Council discussed a budget, how much to do, sound, windows, screens, video, etc. There is approximately \$54,827.00 in the City Hall Building CIP and \$39,000.00 in the Ambulance Building CIP.

There is definitely a need for more space behind the bench.

Main concerns to address were:

- Remove the step
- More counter room
- Wings for department heads, etc.
- Matching podium
- Improve acoustics
- Need lapel mics
- Ceiling mounted projector
- Flat panel screens
- Remove pull down screen
- Make sure room is still usable for MV testing and other events
- Wood look
- Update technology

There was some discussion on moving the cable room and storage room.

Council members assigned to the Ad Hoc Committee were McDaniel and Mayer. Mayer also suggested Welling be on the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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Renee Eckerly, City Administrator