

**MINUTES**  
**PROMOTING BUSINESSES WITH THE HIGHWAY 23 BYPASS OPEN**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**AUGUST 27, 2012**

Attendees: Joe Voss Kay McDaniel Sheri Wegner Bob McDaniel  
Doris Wendlandt Bob Liestman Len Gilmore Dave Lang  
Jim Ochs Gene Beavers Jean Soine Linda Westvig  
Carrie Rolfus Bruce Vanderpool Delane Burr Joel Burr  
John Thompson Jennifer Albright Tom Wendlandt Pat Flanders  
Stan Yarmon Phyllis Nielson Mike Jacobson Mike Putzke  
Monica Moore Darlene Loven Julie Gruber Don Pietsch  
Jeff Thompson Inez Jones Jennifer Welling Karlene Gray  
Robin Gray Ran Roske Jeff Bertram Kathy Webb  
Ed Webb Dick Johnson Paul Rasmussen Don Mayer  
Mike Flanders Mike Christian Jan Smith Collin Smith  
Paul Evans Leo Louis Doug Benson  
A few others that could not be identified.

The meeting was opened by Kay McDaniel on behalf of the Paynesville Event Planning Committee (PEP).

Voss acted as the moderator for the evening.

**MNDOT**

Rasmussen, Resident Engineer from MnDOT Willmar who was in charge of construction addressed the following:

- Signage
- Type of signs
  - Specific Service Signs
    - Must meet qualifications
    - Can pay for sign
    - Limited room for signs
    - Speed
    - Location
    - Color of signs
    - Cost – depends on size
  - General Service Signs
    - Gas/food/lodging
    - MnDOT will pay for, but can't combine general with specific signs

There was some discussion on business district signage and signage for businesses on the west end. The speed limit was questioned. Rasmussen stated that the speed limit is 65 mph and must go through the City to have speed limit study conducted and possibly changed. It was suggested to get generic blue service signs at Lake Ave. Rasmussen will work on this. A sign that says diesel was questioned. Rasmussen will also check on this.

## **WAYSIDE REST**

Rasmussen was not aware of a wayside rest. Jeff Thompson stated that there has been some discussion on this. Doris Wendlandt stated that Eckerly has been checking with MnDOT and MnDOT said the City could possibly get one. It was questioned how much money is available for signage and landscaping. Rasmussen stated \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 for landscaping. It was questioned if the City will still have input on the landscaping layout. Rasmussen said yes, there are just a few places that MnDOT would not allow trees. It was asked how deep the water is in the ponds near the Hoffman St. exists. Rasmussen said 4 feet in the inside ponds and 2 feet in the outside ponds which is too deep and will be cleaned out. It was asked how the group feels about a wayside rest. The Ad Hoc Enhancement Committee and PEP groups could work together on this. Kay McDaniel stated that the Enhancement Committee was working with an architect on the design of the entrances. The Committee is waiting for the designs. The Wayside rest will be on the next Enhancement Committee agenda

## **NAMING OLD HIGHWAY 23**

The naming of Old Hwy. 23 and signage for such was discussed. Rasmussen stated that the name change is up to the City and County and then MnDOT will change it. Signage for Business 23 was discussed and how it would be named through the Township. Don Pietsch will contact the County regarding naming old Hwy. 23 in the Township.

## **SIGNAGE**

Signage along the Hwy. 23 Bypass was discussed. The Township is holding a public hearing tonight regarding a variance for signs. There was some discussion regarding on premise versus off premise signs.

It was questioned once people are in town who is responsible to get people back onto the Bypass. The turn back process was discussed. Street signage and property addressing was mentioned and the cost for such as well as letting the public know of the changes.

## **LIGHTED LED SIGN**

Sheri Wegner has been working with Eckerly on a full-color LED changeable billboard. Items to consider:

- Location/Placement
- Task force to work on this
- Cost
- Size
- Policies & Procedures to put things on it
- Who will own it
- Grants
- Life of a LED sign is 6-8 years

There is a need to get a feeling from the group if this is something the community wants/needs. It was suggested to approach a sign company to build and take care of the sign. A traffic study was mentioned. The current one is about 20 years old. It was suggested to advertise the cute things for those ultimate shoppers. Generic signs do not make you shop or

stop. The City, County, and Township's sign ordinances were discussed. It was asked who is going to take charge of this.

### **CHAMBER WEB SITE**

Sheri Wegner explained a GPS class that the University of MN Extension Service is offering for businesses. The registration fee is \$20.00 and there is a need for 20 businesses to attend. The class will be offered at the Paynesville Area High School.

Sheri Wegner further explained the need for a community website. It was stated that there is a set up fee of \$5,000.00 and monthly fee of \$150.00. The following items were mentioned:

- Designer
- Cost for businesses
- Look of website

### **TRAIL**

Bertram reported that the trail would be done this year. There was discussion on:

- Starting points
- Connection with state trail system
- Shelters
- Glacial Lakes trail
- Map
- Brochure

### **SEARCH FOR PAYNESVILLE**

It was announced that when Paynesville is searched; the top pick that comes up is foreclosures and then New London welcomes you. This needs to be corrected.

### **WRAP UP & QUESTIONS**

Voss asked the following:

- Who's going to take charge of the Hwy. 23 name Change? The City.
- Signage – Rasmussen will check with Eckerly on this.
- Lighted Sign & Billboards – Sheri Wegner
- Website – Chamber of Commerce
- GPS Class – Sheri Wegner

Thank yous were announced.

Voss stated work together; change is always here.

McDaniel stated the persons/businesses need to work together.