

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL**

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Johnson, Councilors: Jimmy Gordon, Paul Bergley (arrived at 5:19 p.m.) and Steve Lundeen

Members Absent: Dan Collison

D. Public Comment

None

E. Committee Meeting Items

1. Police Updates

- The Police Department recently hired two new Full-Time Police Officers. Both Officers came with years of experience from other departments. They are currently in field training and expected to be on solo patrol in early November.
- The 2021 Dodge Durango was put into service in August.
- All 3 of the Dodge Durango patrol vehicles are operated hours every day of the week. The older Ford Explorers are operated by the SRO and CSO.
- All evidence and property located at the Police Department was audited and entered into records management system. This was the first time that the audit and items were recorded into the records management system.
- Evidence property room was updated with key fob access (in addition to analog key) in 2019. CCTV camera was installed on evidence/property room in September 2020. These upgrades enhance the integrity and security of property.

2. Water and Sewer Rate Studies

- Finance Director Mike Betker discussed the water and sewer rate studies.
- Recommendation from Committee is to move forward with option 2 to reduce the water consumption rates in 2021 by 5% and leave unchanged in 2022 and 2023.
- Water base rate would be unchanged in all 3 years and water access charge would go up by 5% each year.
- Recommendation from Committee is to move forward with option 2 to reduce the sewer consumption rates in 2021 by 15% and leave unchanged in 2022 and 2023.
- Sewer base rate would be reduced by 5% in 2021 then unchanged in 2022 and 2023 and sewer access charge would go up by 5% each year.

3. Liquor Store Preliminary Plans

- The proposed layout design of the liquor store was shared.
- The highlights to the design included:
 - A twenty-six-door rail cooler
 - A large beer cave to guarantee cold case beer on demand, without having to spend a lot of staff time re-stocking

- A larger area for backstock, which will not only allow for bigger buys and better deals, but increase staff safety as well
- A designated area to stage curbside pickup orders
- Adequate warm shelf space to stock wider selection of product
- Promo/ Display/ Give Away/ Tasting area will allow the flexibility to promote sales items, display give away items, hold tasting events, etc.
- The proposed location of the sales counter will still allow greeting every customer as they enter the store
- Exterior to match existing city buildings.
- Staff continue to work hard to find the least expensive, yet appropriate interior and exterior options.
- Pallet racking will be used on the sales floor to merchandise beer below, and overstock above.
- The design will allow selection expansion and services as well.

4. 207 Richard Ave- *Update*

- A letter was sent to the lean holder of the property since there is no next of kin or co-owner listed.
- It was stated that either the City or the County may move forward with an abatement.
- Isanti County has statutory authority

5. Draft ORD Chapter 216

- Staff has drafted changes they are recommending to Chapter 216 to be consistent with the League of Minnesota Cities' model policy, policies that were previously adopted by resolution and for Code Enforcement to have more definition of what is considered a nuisance violation.
- Significant changes include:
 - Detailed definitions of noxious weeds, grass and other rank growths.
 - Nuisance for grass over 8".
 - Inclusion of snow and sidewalk clearing to be consistent with the snow plowing policy.
 - Inclusion of objects causing obstructions, wire and limbs that are hazards, obstructing water flow, and building condition.
 - Detailed language for the notice and abatement process and procedures.
- The City Attorney will be reviewing the draft prior to being presented to Council.
- Recommendation from Committee is to move forward and post for the required 10 days and bring to Council for consideration.

6. Pedestrian Overpass/ Underpass- Possible Funding Sources- *Update*

- It has been brought to City staff and City Engineer's attention that \$2.15 million was awarded to the City of Isanti through Omnibus Appropriations Act in 2010 and is still available for the City to use on the pedestrian overpass project that was last evaluated in 2010-2011.
- The overpass was proposed to cross TH 65 at Broadway Street and extend a trail across a wetland to 8th Avenue SE. With the completion of the hotel at this location, the alignment and design of the trail and overpass/ underpass may need to be re-evaluated.
- The trail alignment will require easement acquisitions and wetland mitigation to construct the eastern trail section.
- The original concept was to construct a pedestrian overpass. It has been requested to evaluate the possibility of constructing and underpass as an alternative. Until a full study is completed, both options appear viable.
- The extent of retaining walls and ramp lengths will determine which is most cost effective, and the City will need to make a determination as to which type of crossing, they prefer once the feasibility of each has been studied.

- The pedestrian overpass cost estimate has been updated to current 2020 construction costs and is estimated at a total project cost of \$4.25 million dollars. The underpass option may prove to have a cost savings, depending on the crossing location selected.
- 2025 is the earliest anticipated fiscal year the below funding sources could all apply and meet all application deadlines. The application year listed below is the anticipated year the application would need to be submitted to request funds for a 2025 construction project.
- The initial estimated cost to the City in 2021, to begin the evaluation of the project, is estimated at \$64,000 which includes the creation of a feasibility report and the first three funding applications that would be needed in 2021.
- Depending on which applications are successful, 2022 there would be 1 to 3 more applications to complete for \$6,000-\$26,000.
- It is highly unlikely to succeed in receiving all the below funds. It is anticipated a best-case scenario would be to receive approximately \$1,700,000 in additional funds, leaving \$400,000 in local funds required to cover ineligible project costs such as right of way acquisition and design fees plus the cost of the feasibility report (\$42,000) and funding applications (\$48,000) for a total estimated minimum cost to the City of \$490,000.
- Recommendation from Committee is to not move forward with the project at this time.

7. School for All Season Request

- Mayor Johnson received letters from Sharon Grace, a teacher from A School for All Seasons, and her 3rd grade students where they asked for a community center such as a YMCA facility for the community.
- The Mayor and Council appreciated the requests made and discussed potential future options.
- No further recommendations were made from the Committee.

8. Traffic Control at the Intersection of Rum River Drive SW/ Birch St.

- The surrounding homes of the intersection of Rum River Drive SW and Birch St are requesting a stop sign to replace the yield sign.
- Recommendation from Committee is to install 3 stops signs at the intersection of Rum River Drive SW and Birch St

9. Railroad Quiet Zone Estimate

- Trains are required to blow their horns as they cross roadways that do not meet their quiet zone intersection controls, such as raised medians, ped crossing maze, additional crossing arms, new planking and Continuous Warning System Controls.
- The Continuous Warning System is needed at all quiet zone crossings and is part of the control system used at the crossing.
- If the existing controls do not already have the Continuous Warning System it would need to be added for an estimated cost of \$100,000 per intersection where it is needed.
- To determine if this is needed at each crossing an initial onsite diagnostic meeting would need to be held with the Railroad.
- There are 4 railroad crossings within City limits. Each crossing will need different improvements to meet quiet zone requirements. The estimated cost of this project anticipated at each intersection:
 - **South Passage:** \$225,000- Ped Maze, Additional Arms, Raised Median, Continuous Warning System
 - **Main Street:** \$350,000- Close 1 Ped Crossing, Ped Maze, Raised Median, New Planking, Continuous Warning System
 - **Heritage Boulevard:** \$225,000- Raised Median, Continuous Warning System
 - **Isanti Parkway:** \$225,000- Raised Median, Continuous Warning System

- Total project cost is estimated at \$1,025,000. If all 4 intersections already have the Continuous Warning System the estimated cost would be \$625,000.
- No further recommendations were made from the Committee.

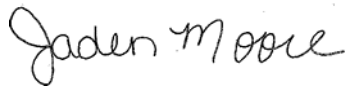
10. Mainstreet Speed Discussion

- The speed limit on Main Street from 3rd Avenue to Elim Lane is currently 30 mph. This segment of roadway is treated as the City's downtown with an emphasis on pedestrian walkability throughout this downtown overlay district.
- It has been requested to evaluate the speed limit through this area to determine if a reduced speed is warranted.
- The City of Isanti, Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 169.14 Subd 5h, is authorized to establish speed limits as long as it is implemented in a consistent and understandable manner and communicated through the placement of appropriate signs.
- The City must develop procedures based on safety, engineering and traffic analysis to identify the appropriate speed limit for a Main Street study area.
- The evaluation would consist of reviewing existing traffic speed and volume, identify any safety issues, review crash history, identify any recommendations for crossing enhancements and conduct an engineering study to establish the appropriate speed limit.
- Bolten & Menk can complete the evaluation for an hourly, not to exceed fee of \$8,000.
- Should a speed limit of 25 mph be the recommended speed, the council will simply need to pass a resolution adopting this speed limit and post the speed limit at all cross streets, this would include the installation of approximately 11 speed limit signs and 2 end speed limit signs.
- Should the recommendation be to reduce the speed limit below 25 mph, the resolution would need to be submitted to the Commissioner of Transportation for approval before it can be posted and enforced.
- Recommendation from Committee is for Chief of Police Travis Muyres to look into speed limit signs and bring back to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

F. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jaden Moore
Deputy City Clerk/ Human Resources