

BAXTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Work Session

January 3, 2017

Mayor Darrel Olson called the Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Darrel Olson, Council Members Todd Holman, Quinn Nystrom, Steve Barrows, and Mark Cross

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Community Development Director Josh Doty, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Steele, Public Works Director Trevor Walter, Chief of Police Jim Exsted, and Finance Director Jeremy Vacinek

2017 EXCELSIOR ROAD/FAIRVIEW ROAD/EDGEWOOD DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT GEOMETRIC LAYOUT DISCUSSION

WSN Consulting Engineer Welch reviewed the geometric layout and summarized the project. Mr. Welch stated he is looking for approval of the layout of the road geometric to complete the Feasibility Report and begin preliminary design and property acquisition tasks.

Mr. Welch inquired if the City wanted to light the pedestrian trail that goes through the Fruth property. Council Member Barrows questioned that if the Fruth property develops and there are lighted parking lots will the trail lighting be necessary. Mr. Welch stated that depends on how the property is developed and where parking lots are placed.

Council Member Holman inquired on bike trail connections and an extensive discussion of bike lane connections was held. WSB Consulting Engineer Rickart recommended widening Excelsior Road 2' to accommodate a bike lane on one side. An audience member offered some comments with regards to the trails but the comments were inaudible.

Staff would prefer the trail on the north side of Excelsior Road for ease of snow removal. The north side of Excelsior Road has more population density and contains several underground utilities. Mr. Welch inquired if the City Council was open to moving the trail to the south side of the road due to these utilities.

Consensus of the council was to widen one direction of Excelsior Road for the bike lane and move the trail to the south side of the road if the trail would not work on the north side.

Mr. Welch inquired if the City would turn back the end of Fairview Road over to developer but would retain easement access over the 12" watermain. CD Director Doty stated the proposed development did include the vacation of Fairview Road.

The council held an extensive discussion on the roundabout. Council Member Cross inquired if a leg of the roundabout should have a stop sign. WSB Engineer Rickart stated there would not be a

stop sign; however, it would have a yield sign. Council Member Cross felt consideration should be given to more of a stop and go than a yield and go.

Mayor Olson reviewed financial concerns and it seems to be wise to do it all at once. Finance Director Vacinek informed the commission that they are working through the financial information at this time.

Council Member Holman felt the 4 leg should be completed in order to do it right the first time and be done. Council Member Barrows felt it comes down to the financing, look at it as complete as possible, dollars are here now and it is the best use of the dollars. Council Member Cross stated he was not in favor of the three legs and he didn't want the ¾ intersection at Edgewood due to congestion. Council Member Nystrom felt that a lot of businesses would be impacted and was in support of the 4-leg.

Mayor Olson stated there are a lot of steps to consider at this time and the consensus of the council was to finish the feasibility study only showing the 4 leg option.

Finance Director Vacinek stated he would have some preliminary numbers by the next council meeting.

Joe Brenny – 7348 Excelsior Road: Stated he has had several productive meetings with staff. His major concern is that as the City keeps moving forward with public safety. Brenny Funeral Chapel continues to have more people hold their reception at the facility and will need to have cooperation with the city to allow the filling in of all property for more parking.

Mr. Welch requested clarification on the backage road and did council want staff to pursue. Finance Director Vacinek clarified the City does not finance private improvements. Council Member Nystrom felt this discussion seems to be a conversation between Quisberg and Brenny.

Council Member Cross felt it would require a CUP/PUD for cross access and there may need to be a traffic study.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Council Member Barrows, seconded by Council Member Nystrom to adjourn to the regular council meeting at 6:58 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Darrel Olson
Mayor

Mary Haugen
Administrative Assistant