

BAXTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Special Meeting
January 15, 2015

Mayor Darrel Olson called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Gordon Heitke, Finance Director Jeremy Vacinek, Public Works Director/City Engineer Trevor Walter, and Assistant City Administrator Kelly Steele

PRESENTATION OF 2015 BRIARWOOD LANE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – KEVIN WERNBERG, WSN

Mr. Wernberg provided an overview and history of the proposed improvement project. The City Council held a public informational meeting on August 6, 2014. Mr. Wernberg explained the process of the improvement hearing. The project would be completed in the summer of 2015.

The existing conditions of the roadway is approximately 1,710 feet in length, gravel surfaced, and is currently maintained by the City. The area is not served with municipal sanitary sewer or water service and plans do not call for the area to be served with City utilities. The project area contains twelve separate parcels with five developed or developable and seven assessable. The east side of the roadway is bordered predominantly by wetlands.

The proposed improvements include paving the roadway and placing topsoil and seed on 2' shoulders. The estimated project cost is \$60,000.

Mr. Wernberg reviewed the City's assessment policy. The City will pay for 44% of the total project cost. The estimated per lot assessment is \$6,692. Mr. Wernberg explained a hardship deferment exists for qualified property owners.

Mr. Wernberg explained the project is feasible from a construction standpoint. Construction will take approximately two weeks. The roadway will remain open during construction.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Olson opened the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

Brad Folta, Jr., 4444 Briarwood Lane, questioned what the benefit is to the City for completing the project. Mr. Folta explained the project area contains Blanding turtle, box turtles, and a cranberry tree. Mayor Olson explained the benefit to the City is the savings in annual maintenance costs. Mr. Folta discussed his concerns with storm water runoff and if the neighboring residential wells would be polluted.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Walter explained the gravel surface roadway has the same impervious surface as a paved roadway.

Brad Folta, Sr., 4444 Briarwood Lane, explained the water table in the project area is very high. Mr. Folta questioned if the water will cause the road to heave up and if there will be roadway repair costs. Public Works Director/City Engineer Walter explained there would be a good base under the roadway to prevent any heaving problems.

CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Olson closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

NEXT STEPS

Mayor Olson explained a number of the Briarwood Lane property owners have expressed support in paving the roadway.

City Administrator Heitke explained the council would consider ordering the Briarwood Lane improvement project during the January 20, 2015 council meeting.

MOTION by Council Member Barrows, seconded by Council Member Cross to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Darrel L. Olson
Mayor

Kelly Steele
Assistant City Administrator/Clerk