

BAXTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Special Meeting
February 1, 2016

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: Chief of Police Jim Exsted and Assistant City Administrator Kelly Steele

Scott Hedlund, SEH, presented the 2016 Fairview Road Improvement Hearing. Mr. Hedlund explained a public informational meeting was held on December 2, 2015 and the council approved the feasibility report on January 5, 2016. After tonight's improvement hearing, the council can consider ordering the project.

The existing condition of Fairview Road is a 24' wide rural section, which serves as primarily a residential and institutional area frontage street to TH 210. A traffic study indicated the average daily traffic count on Fairview Road is 3,000 vehicles. There are significant private utilities, signs, and mailboxes located within the right-of-way. The last major construction of Fairview Road was during 1989-1990, with bulb outs in 2002. The only curb and gutter can be found in front of Baxter Elementary School. The roadway shares a ditch with TH 210 on the south side. There are intermittent ditches on the north side of the roadway. Issues have been identified with standing water encroaching the street edge.

The proposed improvements include 1.5 miles of full depth reclamation, the widening the roadway from 11' driving lanes with a 5' paved pedestrian lanes from Memorywood Drive to Inglewood Drive. A storm sewer and stormwater pond on the north side of Fairview Road, located near the gas station and adjacent vacant commercial parcel would be constructed to address existing drainage issues.

Assessments would be calculated based on benefiting footage for the full depth reclamation. The City will pay for the cost of the full depth reclamation improvements on the south side of Fairview Road and the extra cost of roadway widths over 26 feet. The assessments for the stormwater drainage improvements by the school and gas station will be calculated based on contributing drainage area. Mr. Hedlund reviewed the city's assessment policy.

Assessment balances will be certified to Crow Wing County with payments to begin on the following year's property tax statement. Assessment balances will be amortized over the twelve-year assessment year with an interest rate estimated to be 4.75%. The actual rate will be determined when the project is ordered and the bonds for a similar project are sold. Interest accrues through the end of the calendar year. Future payments in full may be made by November 15 of any year to either the City of Baxter or Crow Wing County Auditor to avoid paying the following year's interest. Individuals meeting age, disability, or military active duty requirements may be eligible to request a deferment of their special assessment.

The preliminary estimated project cost is \$2,051,881. The estimated assessment figure is \$616,697 and the estimated city cost is \$1,435,184.

The project would be bid in April or May, an assessment hearing and second public informational meeting would be held in June, and the construction period would be June through September.

The project is feasible from an engineering standpoint. Delays, detours, and inconveniences can be expected during construction. Portions of the project area will be closed to through traffic. Property owner and patron access will be maintained.

Mayor Olson opened the public hearing at 6:25 p.m.

Lakewood Church representative inquired if the City would provide directional signs to the church. Mr. Hedlund explained the city would provide signs.

Randy Rutz, 5828 Fairview Road, explained in 43 years he has not experienced a storm water problem. Mr. Rutz expressed concerns with the removal of trees from the front of his property. The trees provide a buffer for traffic noise. Mr. Rutz explained he understands the need to protect pedestrians, but this could be accomplished by lowering the 40 MPH speed limit. The holding ponds create issues with mosquitos.

Dave Schonrock, 6056 Fairview Road, provided a demonstration of a water bottle and shot glass to illustrate his concerns with the storm water drainage at the gas station and school. Mr. Schonrock reviewed a police report with the number of traffic violations and tickets issued from Inglewood Drive to the police station. There were 57 tickets issued, one speeding ticket, and one verbal warning. In eight years, 8 million vehicles have traveled on Fairview Road. Mr. Schonrock explained there are three options to figure out how safe the road is. First, people have the right to know who and when the traffic study was completed because the study is wrong. Second, the police department is not doing their job. Third, we have the safest road. Mr. Schonrock expressed the importance of traffic slowing down and moving over for pedestrians. Mr. Schonrock explained there is something wrong with the project.

Jason Jorgensen, 5688 Fairview Road, explained he is fine with the bike path and does not have drainage issues in his yard. There is no need for a ditch in the front yard. The police department needs to enforce speed limits.

Josh Miles, 5648 Fairview Road, explained he is attending to hear about the project. The proposed changes to the landscape of his yard are concerning. The road needs to be surfaced. The project burden is being put on the property owners. The speed limit should be changed or enforced. The project costs outweigh the project benefit. Mr. Miles explained he is opposed to the project, not just the cost.

Jon Belcher, 6036 Fairview Road, explained Fairview Road handles the heavy weight of school buses causing the road to become damaged. Mr. Belcher questioned the reason the City allows school buses to use the road.

Mayor Olson explained buses and garbage trucks are exempt from weight restrictions.

Mayor Olson closed the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

During the regular council meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, the council will consider ordering the Fairview Road Improvement Project.

MOTION by Council Member Barrows, seconded by Council Member Holman to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Darrel Olson
Mayor

Kelly Steele
Assistant City Administrator/Clerk