

BAXTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Work Session
May 15, 2018

Vice Mayor Todd Holman called the Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Vice Mayor Todd Holman and Council Members Quinn Nystrom, Steve Barrows, and Mark Cross

Council Members Absent: Mayor Darrel Olson

Staff Present: City Administrator Bradley Chapulis, Public Works Director Trevor Walter, Community Development Director Josh Doty, Chief Jim Exsted, Finance Director Jeremy Vacinek, and Assistant City Administrator Kelly Steele

Walmart Application Review

Community Development Director Doty explained on April 16, 2018, the City of Baxter received an Architectural Review Application to repaint the Walmart Building in Baxter with a new color scheme. The building would be painted from tan tones to gray tones with accent blue and orange colors. The Architectural Review Ordinance has an exemption for general repainting of any façade provided the colors are earth tone colors. Staff finds that the proposed repainting plan meets the definition of earth tone colors and that the non-earth (or accent colors) are less than 10 percent of the wall and meet the requirements of the ordinance. Staff has therefore determined that from an ordinance perspective, the application can be approved administratively.

Walmart was originally approved with conditional use permits. Staff was recently made aware of an interpretation of the conditional use permit for Walmart and specifically condition #2 that a conditional use permit amendment application is necessary for Walmart to change the original colors approved on 10-7-03.

Staff is requesting that the City Council provide direction regarding the approval process that the City Council would like to see occur regarding the proposed re-painting of Walmart. The Council consensus was to agree with staff's interpretation of the ordinance and the application can be approved administratively.

2018 Excelsior Road and Edgewood Drive Improvements Project – Discuss Traffic Detour Plan Signing and Issues

Chuck Rickart, WSB consulting engineer, discussed the purpose of the weekly project update email. The late arrival of spring put the project about one month behind schedule. The first closure occurred last week. The closure is along Excelsior Road from Forest to Brenny's driveway. This segment will be closed until Memorial Day weekend at which time it will be opened as a gravel access. Access to all residential and business properties will be maintained. Meetings with business owners to hear their concerns have occurred. After Memorial Day weekend, Excelsior Road at TH 371 will be closed for dewatering. The goal is to have this segment completed before the July 4th holiday. The main construction of the roundabout will happen after July 4th.

A concern has been raised that with traffic exiting the area avoiding Excelsior Road will travel on Edgewood Drive to Woida Road to continue north on TH 371. With the increased traffic, turning right from Edgewood Drive to Woida Road may become more difficult. In order to provide gaps in traffic, it is proposed to install a stop sign for eastbound Woida Road only. Another concern is with southbound traffic backing up from the TH 371 and Excelsior Road intersection blocking traffic turning right onto Edgewood Drive at Design Drive. MnDOT indicated that they would review the signal timing as necessary though construction, but no additional traffic control could be installed at TH 371 and Design Drive. Hower, a sign is proposed on southbound TH 371 indicating to not block the intersection. Signs will also be installed to direct traffic to businesses. The additional cost for the signs is estimated at \$5,000.

The Council consensus was supportive of the additional signs to provide clear notices. The storm water pipe connection will be made mid to end of July. Mr. Rickart explained the project is draining during construction. Mr. Rickart will review if construction trucks can use an alternative route than Excelsior Road.

ADJOURN:

MOTION by Council Member Cross, seconded by Council Member Barrows to adjourn the council work session at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Holman
Vice Mayor

Kelly Steele
Assistant City Administrator