

BAXTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Work Session
September 16, 2014

Mayor Darrel Olson called the City Council Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Darrel Olson and Council Members Jim Klein, Todd Holman, Mark Cross, and Rob Moser.

STAFF PRESENT: Finance Director Jeremy Vacinek, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Steele, Community Development Director Josh Doty, and Consulting Engineer Aric Welch.

Riverview Park Trail Public Dedication

The Council met at 5:30 p.m. at Riverview Park for a public dedication of the newly constructed trail. Following the public dedication, the Council returned to City Hall to finish the work session.

Briarwood Lane Improvement Update

Assistant Administrator Steele explained the Council has previously discussed the potential Briarwood Lane improvement project. Staff is looking for direction regarding the planting of native grass along the right-of-way. Public Works Director/City Engineer Walter has prepared a memo illustrating the issues associated with planting native grass. If the Council decides to complete the improvement project, the Council will need to determine the method to initiate the project. The City's public improvement assessment policy provides the initiation of public improvement projects can be undertaken either by a petition from the property owners or by a direct action of the council. The Council expressed concerns native grass will not survive snow-plowing operations and will not provide the needed cover for the prevention of erosion. The consensus of the Council was to exclude the planting of native grass and order the improvement as a direct action of the Council. Mayor Olson explained a public hearing would be required in which property owners will have one more opportunity to express their opinion of the project. Staff will prepare the necessary resolutions and notices to move forward with holding an improvement hearing. The Council will decide during the improvement hearing if the project will move forward.

Wildflower Drive-Clearwater Road Trail Connection

Consulting Engineer Welch explained the City has the property available to complete the trail connection. The estimated cost of the trail construction is \$19,857.67. The original estimated project cost included \$2,300.00 for a maintenance road to access the first manhole north of Clearwater Road. The trail can be used in lieu of the proposed access road due to infrequent use by maintenance personnel. Some residents have indicated support of a road rather than a trail. Consulting Engineer Welch explained the City does not have enough right-of-way to construct a road; the existing right-of-way is barely wide enough to support the trail. The Council considered measures to prevent vehicles from driving on the trail. The Council indicated support for the trail since the City is always exploring trail connections. This trail segment would be a good start to constructing a trail near highway 371. The consensus of the Council was to construct the trail.

MOTION by Council Member Cross, seconded by Council Member Klein to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Darrel L. Olson
Mayor

Kelly Steele
Assistant City Administrator/Clerk