

**BAXTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Work Session**  
**October 17, 2017**

Vice Mayor Todd Holman called the Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice Mayor Todd Holman, Council Members Quinn Nystrom, Mark Cross.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mayor Darrel Olson and Council Member Steve Barrows

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Administrator Bradley Chapulis, Community Development Director Josh Doty, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Steele, Finance Director Jeremy Vacinek, and Public Works Director Trevor Walter.

**2018 Baxter Drive Reconstruction Improvements Project**

WSN Consulting Engineer Aric Welch explained the feasibility report would improve the roadway and pedestrian/trail facilities along Baxter Drive from TH 210 northerly to the termination of the municipal roadway at the south property line of the Westgate Mall and entrance to the Mann Lakes 12 Theatre. The proposed improvements are part of the City of Baxter's ongoing pavement management program. On June 20, 2017, the City Council authorized WSN to complete a feasibility report relative to these improvements.

The proposed improvements include a full depth reclamation of the roadway resulting in a 10-ton design strength roadway meeting state-aid and city requirements. For pedestrian access and to improve traffic safety, a 10' wide bituminous surfaced, non-motorized trail is proposed along the west side of Baxter Drive, extending from the TH 210 crosswalk to the northerly termination of the municipal roadway. The proposed trail way would be separated from the Baxter Drive roadway by a 5' wide boulevard area.

Additional proposed improvements to Baxter Drive and associated drainage system include reconstruction of existing storm sewer pipes and structures and replacement of existing castings, replacement cracked curb/gutter sections, replacement of valley gutters at Fairview Road and mall entrances, installation of new loop detectors at the TH 210 intersection, upgrading the pedestrian curb ramps in all four corners of the TH 210 intersection, Fairview Road, and trail crossing to Westgate mall, upgrading the existing traffic control system at TH 210 to include required accessible pedestrian signals, and reconfiguring and updating the roadway lighting system.

The proposed improvements would reduce the impervious surface in the project area and would create some nonconformities. Property acquisition would be required. The assessments would be calculated based on a full depth reclamation.

The total estimated project cost is \$554,520, with an estimated assessable cost of \$191,500.

The east/west trail would be an alternate. The boulevard area on the private property would support trees, even with snow removal operations. Next step would be to schedule a public informational meeting. The acceptance of the feasibility report is on the regular council agenda.

**2018 Cypress Drive Improvements Project – Discuss proposed landscaping/tree planting plan and adding a Storm water liftstation for emergency flooding in the Industrial Park area – SEH Consulting Engineer Scott Hedlund**

SEH consulting engineer Scott Hedlund explained he is proposing to install sod and irrigation for both roundabouts, unless the council elects to provide additional landscaping elements. Council Member Nystrom inquired about establishing an art contest for designing the roundabouts and providing citizen engagement. Council Member Cross suggested installing rocks and pine trees. Council Member Holman explained the master gardeners may have interest in designing the roundabouts. As a state aid street, there may be design considerations. The council discussed incorporating natural vegetation that does not require irrigation. Mr. Hedlund explained detailed discussions on the roundabout landscaping can be held in the future.

Mr. Hedlund reviewed tree planting proposed for screening on the south end of College Road to include a planting of coniferous trees along the storm water ponds and an alternating deciduous and coniferous planting every 75' along the coordinator to be compliant with the city code. Council Member Nystrom inquired why screening was not proposed at Cypress and Greenwood. The Cypress Drive informational meeting scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. Mr. Hedlund will review if additional screening can be completed near the townhomes at Cypress and Greenwood. The Council supported the proposed tree planting plan for the remaining portion of the project area and expressed concerns of installing sod throughout the coordinator without irrigating.

Mr. Hedlund is proposing to install LED lighting along the corridor, similar to what was installed on Excelsior Road. The proposed signal lights would match the existing signal lights located in the city.

To address the ongoing existing flooding issues in the industrial park area, Mr. Hedlund is proposing to add a storm water lift station. City staff would be able to use the lift station to draw down water levels in the existing and proposed wet storm water ponds located at the Cypress Drive and Industrial Park Road intersection before and after larger storm events. The lift station would pump water to an existing storm water pond south of College Drive on the west side of Conifer Drive. Even with the installation of the lift station, some flooding could occur.

**ADJOURN:**

**MOTION** by Council Member Cross, seconded by Council Member Nystrom to adjourn the council work session at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

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Darrel Olson  
Mayor

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Kelly Steele  
Assistant City Administrator