

BAXTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Special Meeting
December 13, 2018

1. Call Special Meeting to Order

Mayor Darrel Olson called the special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Darrel Olson and Council Members Quinn Nystrom, Steve Barrows, and Todd Holman were present. Council Member Mark Cross was absent.

City Administrator Brad Chapulis, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Steele, and Public Works Director Trevor Walter were present.

3. Presentation of 2019 Memorywood Drive Improvement Hearing

Aric Welch, an engineer with Widseth Smith Nolting, explained the outline of his presentation. Mr. Welch explained the city established a pavement management plan to address ongoing maintenance and funding of the city's now 85 miles of streets. Preventative street maintenance is significantly less costly than the reconstruction alternative.

Memorywood Drive was constructed in 1989 with sanitary sewer and water. The roadway is 34' wide. The right-of-way varies between 66' and 73'. Drainage is mainly handled by swales and ponding areas adjacent to the roadway. There are no known issues with the sanitary sewer. There have been several failures with the existing plastic watermain fittings.

A storm water pond will be constructed on the city owned property located adjacent to Baxter Lake. Mr. Welch is proposing to install street lights at the Memorywood Drive and T.H. 210 intersection. There are known right-of-way encroachments at Clearwater Road.

There are two design options for consideration. Option A is a full depth reclamation and reconstruction of the existing 34' wide roadway with two 11' drive lanes and two 6' wide bike lanes. The roadway would be striped and signed for bike lanes and no parking would be allowed. Option G is a full depth reclamation and construction of a 38' wide roadway with an 8' wide parking lane, 15' wide shared drive land, 11' wide drive lane and 4' wide designated bike lane. This option would require widening the roadway by two feet on each side. Both options require reconstruction of the driveways to the right-of-way line.

The estimated total project cost for Option A is \$2,215,190 and Option B is \$2,385,675. The estimated assessable cost per ERU is \$6,228. Assessments would be amortized over a 12-year term. The interest rate will be known next fall when bonds are sold. There are assessment deferment options for eligible property owners.

An assessment hearing would be held in April, public informational meeting would be held in May, and construction would take place June-August 2019.

4. Questions of City Council Members

None.

5. Open Public Hearing

Mayor Olson opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Mike Buxton, did not provide address, explained he would like a wider road for improved safety and to keep on street parking.

Rebecca Souhrada, 14114 Memorywood Drive, explained she would prefer the safer option, Option G.

Scott Harrison, 14270 Memorywood Drive, questioned if the current roadway is a 10-ton design. Public Works Director Walter explained it is a nine-ton design.

Jennifer Pederson, 13700 Memorywood Drive, explained she is happy to see the storm water issues addressed and questioned if there will be signage on the access. Ms. Pederson also expressed the need for safe roads for children riding bikes. Mr. Welch explained once the work is completed the access would no longer be assessable by vehicles and it can be signed no vehicles.

Tom Russell, 13931 Memorywood Drive, questioned if the right-of-way will change and inquired if a study on the number of accidents has been completed.

Mr. Welch explained the existing roadway is not centered in the right of way, but as part of the construction it will be more centered. Under both options all mailbox posts will be replaced with a swing away post.

Jeff Schellin, 13277 Memorywood Drive, explained he would like safe roads but as soon as a roadway is widened traffic starts going faster.

Laurel Mezner, 14266 Memorywood Drive, explained not allowing on street parking is going to be a hardship on a lot of people, as such is opposed to Option A. Ms. Mezner questioned if additional street lights will be installed. Mr. Welch explained LED street lights will be added to the existing light poles. All additional street lights will be installed at the Memorywood Drive and T.H. 210 intersection.

Mr. Welch explained the moving of utilities to underground is not considered with this project.

Council Member Holman explained how he feels Option A is actually a safer option.

Laurel Mezner, 14266 Memorywood Drive, explained she agrees with Council Member Holman that Option A is safer and suggested the city install some neighborhood signs to encourage slower speeds.

Scott Harrison, 14270 Memorywood Drive, explained that after further explanation of Option G, he would now support Option A. Mr. Harrison questioned if trees would have to be removed. Public Works Director Walter explained tress may have to be removed with either option if they are located within the right-of-way.

Mr. Welch explained the project area has already been surveyed.

Bob Ehrich, 13806 Memorywood Drive, explained he is concerned about increased traffic due to the improved roadway.

Council Member Holman explained sales tax funds can be used with Option A for the bike lanes because of the safety improvement. Sales tax funds cannot be used with Option G.

Jim Hunt, 14368 Memorywood Drive, would like to know if signage and striping is an option for Option G before selecting an option.

Tom Russell, 13931 Memorywood Drive, inquired how intrusive Option G would actually be with everything considered. Mr. Welch explained both options would have a 12” gravel shoulder.

Mayor Olson asked for a show of hands for each option. The meeting attendees seemed to be evenly split between both options.

6. Closed Public Hearing

After hearing no further public comments, Mayor Olson closed the public hearing at 8:44 p.m.

7. Next Steps

8. Adjourn

MOTION by Council Member Nystrom, seconded by Council Member Holman to adjourn at 8:45p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Darrel Olson
Mayor

Kelly Steele
Assistant City Administrator