

### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

**Mayor O'Brien called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Present:** Mayor Lynn O'Brien; Council Members Tony Donahue, Mike Nelson, Margie Ritter; City Engineer Jayson Newman; City Clerk Jean Panchyshyn; Representatives from ICTV and Scenic Range Newspaper.

**Absent:** Council Member Vic Moen

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

**Ritter moved, Donahue seconded, approving the March 5, 2018, Council Meeting Minutes. Motion passed 4/0.**

#### 3. Recess to Public Hearing on Improvement – Fuhrman Avenue from Hwy 2 to end of Fuhrman Avenue

**O'Brien recessed the Regular Council meeting to the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m.** She stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider improvements to Fuhrman Avenue from Hwy 2 to end of Fuhrman Avenue. Panchyshyn stated the notice of the public hearing was published in the February 22 and March 1 issues of the Scenic Range News, and sent by certified mail to landowners on February 15.

Newman referred to the project exhibit while providing a detailed explanation of the scope of the project, noting it is an overlay project with bituminous pavement, the cul-de-sac would be enlarged to accommodate large vehicles such as garbage trucks and emergency vehicles, aggregate would be used along the edge of the roadway to help protect the new roadway which will be slightly raised, and an approximate five foot portion of the driveways would be removed and replaced to provide proper elevation to meet the new roadway. An existing culvert would be replaced and a spillway for the culvert would be brought out toward the field area. There are 10 parcels in the project area, and a city property with Ryan Park to the north. There are some existing utilities that will also be replaced. The project is estimated at \$57,800. The city would cover 50%, with the remaining 50% to be assessed to landowners. A handout was made available which calculated the assessment two ways: 1) based on per linear foot of each property; 2) divided equally among the properties. Newman clarified that Ryan Park is a non-benefiting property, therefore not part of the calculation. He noted the estimates are not final numbers and explained that if the project is constructed, actual final project costs would be used

in calculating the final assessment. He stated the culvert location is between the properties belonging to the Svatos and Hopkins, and spillway would run through the parcel owned by church to keep the water drainage away from the homes.

**Mayor O'Brien opened the Public Input portion of the Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m.**

**Jason Thurm, 304 Fuhrman Ave,** asked for background on how Fuhrman Avenue was selected for improvement at this time. O'Brien stated that a few years ago, the then Mayor and Engineer evaluated the streets and put together a street improvement plan which would provide for maintenance of roadways on a rotating basis. In response to a question from Thurm, she indicated the plan could be changed based on need. Donahue stated he was part of the evaluation team for five years. They traveled each road, determined which roads could be sealed, and identified roads where the sealing no longer worked. Those roads become a priority for mill and overlay; if the roadway were to be left and not maintained, it would deteriorate to a point of needing total reconstruction, which would be substantially more costly. Thurm asked where Fuhrman fell on the top five list, and Council recalled it was number one on the list, but that would be confirmed and made available this week. In response to a question from Thurm, Newman indicated the items that could cause fluctuation in prices included how eager the construction companies wanted the project, their prices could vary. If wanted really bad, they would bid cheaper so the cost could go down. Some quantities on the estimate may be high, for example, the amount of aggregate to be placed on the roadway edge, and the cost of oil may fluctuate which could affect cost. Trees are included but if none are wanted, they would be deducted out. Thurm heard there may be trees removed, Newman indicated there are no trees slated for removal as the roadway will remain the same width. Thurm thanked everyone.

**Tom Hopkins, 309 Fuhrman,** indicated he has lived here since 1963. He stated he is aware of three ambulances and one fire truck coming down their street during his time. He stated school buses do not come down the street. He is able to maneuver his 52-foot travel trailer and truck around the existing turnaround and questioned the need for the increased size of that cul-de-sac. He said the culvert isn't draining due to it being collapsed and because above ground tree roots from the large white pine on the church property are interfering with drainage. O'Brien stated that in the future there may be changes in landowners, creating more children living on the street which the buses may pick up. She noted the cul-de-sac would provide a safer turn around for buses and emergency vehicles.

**Joann Norris, 325 Fuhrman,** asked how much the assessment would cost yearly on her taxes. Newman indicated the assessment would be over a 10-year period. O'Brien stated that past projects were assessed according to the linear foot of the property. Using that calculation, Newman indicated her yearly assessment would be approximately \$270, plus a small amount of interest. Norris indicated that was a lot money for a road she felt was in pretty good condition. She also indicated that the buses will not come down that road.

**Jennifer Svatos, 315 Fuhrman,** asked for clarification of the process of the street overlay, and expressed concern that water may pool at the driveway ramps. Newman indicated the 2" of new

pavement would be placed on top of the existing roadway pavement; there will be no grinding of the existing pavement. He noted the approximate 5' driveway aprons have not had problems on past projects; there would be a 2" change over a 5' distance. If driveways had existing slope, they would follow the same slope so the water should not pool. She asked if property owners have any recourse if water does pool at end of driveway; Newman indicated that would typically fall on the homeowner. He further clarified the construction process of the driveway aprons.

**Nathan Lane, 305 Fuhrman Avenue**, asked what the life of the overlay is. Newman indicated a minimum of 10 years. In response to Lane's questions, Newman clarified he cannot provide a definite answer as to the condition of the roadway in 10 years, so cannot predict what level of maintenance would be needed. Lane stated he is fairly new in the community, and has lived on Fuhrman for four years. In his opinion, he thinks this project is a lot of money and he doesn't think the road is in that bad of a condition. He stated he does not know the engineering needs of the culvert. He felt that perhaps that money could be better spent elsewhere, noting he feels he paid a premium price to live in LaPrairie and that he has the smallest parcel, but due to frontage, he would be paying the most and he doesn't feel the roadway overlay is needed.

**Leon Gwin, Salem Lutheran Church Property caretaker**, noted this is a very narrow and tight area. He doesn't think anything is needed but to re-gravel and tamp down the cul-de-sac. He indicated that besides the \$3,000 in assessment, the culvert would be placed through the church yard to the field/ditch to the back yard. Newman indicated a topographic survey has not been completed yet to determine the spillway location. Leon indicated they took the big white pine out so there should not be a problem with drainage. He noted the church just paid about \$6,500 for an assessment on a new road past there. He does not believe this road improvement needs to be done.

**Jason Thurm, 304 Fuhrman Avenue**, stated a pretty good representation of the neighborhood clearly indicates they are not in favor of the project. He stated he knows of another resident, unable to be here this evening due to medical issues, who is not in favor of this project. He stated that the culvert does appear to be collapsed and in need of repair, and this would be a much cheaper fix than the \$30,000 to be paid by the city and the additional \$30,000 to be covered by the property owners. He noted they are not concerned about the road needing total reconstruction and he does not think Fuhrman is in the top five streets for repair. He thinks there may be a better use of the city's money. He stated that the Grand Rapids and Greenway buses pick up students on a different street.

**Hearing no further comments, O'Brien closed the Public Input portion of the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.**

O'Brien asked Council if they had any comments or questions.

In response to a question from Ritter, Newman indicated that a temporary construction easement would be needed if it is determined that the spillway were to pass through the church property; the level of easement would be determined if the project moves forward.

Ritter also asked if trees are being destroyed as part of the construction, as trees are included in the bid. Newman indicated he added trees to the scope of the project but they can be removed. He noted that some people like adding a tree and he had heard that some trees were lost due to storms. The trees can be removed from the scope of work, which would reduce the final cost.

Donahue stated Mr. Thurm could contact him when he gets the list of the top five streets evaluated for maintenance.

Nelson asked Newman for his opinion as to the life of the road before requiring more costly improvements. Newman estimated 5 years, with annual maintenance to repair cracks and potholes due to the freeze-thaw cycle.

In response to a comment from the audience, Nelson indicated there is a cost-benefit with an assumed life span of 10 years. If nothing is done now, the cost for total reconstruction in five or so years may be double as much. O'Brien indicated the total reconstruction cost could be more than double; those estimates are not known at this time.

A member of the audience again expressed he did not feel the road was in need of repair.

O'Brien thanked everyone for their comments.

**Donahue moved, Ritter seconded, Adjourning the Fuhrman Avenue Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m. Motion passed 4/0.**

**O'Brien reconvened the Regular Council meeting at 6:32 p.m.**

**A. Fuhrman Avenue from Hwy 2 to end of Fuhrman Avenue**

O'Brien indicated that a decision on the Fuhrman Avenue improvement project would be made at the April 2 meeting, expecting that full Council will be present.

**4. Consent Agenda**

Mayor O'Brien reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda

- A. Claims for Approval List
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Correspondence: 1) Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board Agenda; 2) Itasca County Transportation Department

On the Financial Report, Ritter questioned the Wages charges under the Playground budget. Panchyshyn will check the details and provide an update to Council.

**Nelson moved, Ritter seconded, approving the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 4/0.**

**4. Public Forum – None**

## 5. Additions to Agenda - None

## 6. Reports

a. **Maintenance** – None.

b. **Attorney** – None.

c. **Engineer** – Newman will provide the five-year street plan to Panchyshyn. He will have the radar sign data for the next meeting. He noted that the scope of the Fuhrman Avenue project can be reduced, but not added to. Council may discuss how to address some of the bigger concerns expressed this evening and how the scope of the project may be reduced.

d. **Mayor** – The Board of Appeal and Equalization is scheduled for April 19 at 9:00 a.m.

e. **Clerk** – None.

f. **Council** – Nelson stated that they did follow up with Steve Giorgi on the Economic Council.

g. **Committees:**

**Personnel** – None.

**Park/Recreation** – Donahue indicated a meeting would be scheduled within the next couple of weeks.

**Facilities/Equipment** – None.

**Zoning** – Ritter reported that the March 14 meeting was canceled due to lack of issues. Attorney Licke indicated his review of the Rental Inspection ordinance would be completed by the end of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11.

**Technology** – None.

**Utilities** – None.

**GreenStep** – None.

7. **Old Business** – None.

## 8. New Business

A. **First Call for Help** – O'Brien stated that the city has contributed \$250 to First Call for Help in past years and asked if Council supports doing so again. Council concurred. Ritter indicated this is an allowable donation.

**Moved by Donahue, seconded by Nelson, to approve a \$250 donation to First Call for Help. Motion passed 4/0.** Donahue suggested the information be placed in the Liquor Store.

**B. Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association Conference** – O’Brien indicated Panchyshyn signed up for the conference at the reduced rate prior to her appointment and she doesn’t require a hotel as she has a family member she can stay with. Council supported her attendance at the conference. Ritter indicated Panchyshyn should also receive mileage reimbursement.

**Nelson moved, Ritter seconded, to approve Panchyshyn’s attendance at the Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers conference and her reimbursement of the conference fee and mileage. Motion passed 4/0.**

**C. Safety and Loss Control Workshop** – O’Brien indicated Panchyshyn has expressed interest in attending this workshop. O’Brien also asked Maintenance employee Bill Hildreth to determine if it would be beneficial for him to attend. The fee is \$20 per person. She asked for a motion to support both Panchyshyn and Hildreth to attend the workshop, with the knowledge that if Hildreth determines it would not benefit him, he would not be required to attend.

**Donahue moved, Nelson seconded, approving both Panchyshyn and Hildreth to attend the Safety and Loss Control Workshop. Motion passed 4/0.**

**D. Proposals from Northland Portables for Summer Restroom Services**

O’Brien indicated Northland Portables is offering a one- or two-year contract. The cost is the same regardless of the term. Council agreed a one-year term was adequate.

**Motion by Nelson, seconded by Donahue, to approve a one-year contract with Northland Portables for summer restroom services. Motion passed 4/0.**

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion by Ritter, seconded by Donahue, to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:51 PM. Motion passed 4/0.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Panchyshyn, City Clerk-Treasurer

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Lynn O’Brien, Mayor