

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION**  
**October 19, 2015**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Thomas Stiehm, Council Members Steve King, Michael Jordal, Jeremy Carolan, David Hagen and Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson

**ABSENT:** Council Members Judy Enright and Jeff Austin

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director Kim Underwood, City Clerk Ann Kasel

**ALSO PRESENT:** Austin Daily Herald, Public

Mayor Stiehm opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Item No. 1 – Flood Control Update**

Public Works Director Steven Lang presented an update to the flood control programs that the City is working on. He began with a breakdown of the Local Option Sales Tax funds. The tax has generated \$11,500,000 since 2007 or approximately \$1,300,000 per year. The current balance of the account is \$1,575,000.

Mr. Lang stated that the Cedar River currently has no open grants. Dobbins Creek had an original DNR grant amount of \$450,000 with \$160,000 remaining. The city has purchased one home and one commercial property (the Ponderosa). Other property buy out offers have been turned down in the area. Turtle Creek's DNR grant was in the original amount of \$1.8 million. The City has spent \$1.3 million (including matching funds) and has about \$1.2 million of the grant remaining.

The City is currently working on a variety of flood projects involving mostly planning and design for construction in the summer of 2016. On the Cedar River, North Main Street area, Mr. Lang stated he has been working with SEH for elevations and mapping to remove properties from flood plain that will be protected by flood plain. The mapping will create a conditional letter of map revision (CLOMR) which will remove parcels from the flood plain.

On the Phase 1 area of the North Main Flood Control Project, a berm is being designed to wrap around the power plant from the library to the bridge. This berm would need to be in the plans for any future development of that property.

The Lions Park Levee is being designed to strengthen the existing levee from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. There are no current plans for Dobbins Creek.

There are three projects being designed on Turtle Creek which require the CLOMR certification prior to the construction of the design of the levees in SW. There are drainage issues in the area where all the water from Oakland Avenue West drains down to the proposed levee area and once the berms are constructed it will block the path of the water. The engineering firm wants to do additional studies on the watershed to determine what size of pumps and drainage systems will need to be installed. This may save City money in the long run but it will more than the original engineering bid for the study. Mr. Lang stated Bolton & Menk would require an additional \$100,000 for the additional design work with a contract modification.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member King, to move forward with the Bolton and Menk contract modification in the amount of \$100,000 for the Turtle Creek flood mitigation program. Carried.

The item will be placed on the November 2, 2015 Council meeting.

### **Item No. 2 – 11<sup>th</sup> Drive NE Bridge Update**

Public Works Director Steven Lang provided an update on the 11<sup>th</sup> Drive NE bridge which is scheduled to be replaced in 2017. This will be the first bridge replaced using the visual quality manual developed with MN DOT and Vision 2020. Approximately \$150,000 of additional costs are proposed for the bridge including a 10 foot wide sidewalk design instead of a 6 foot wide design which would cost about \$100,000; additional aesthetics including an architectural concrete texture and pedestrian railing in the amount of \$25,000; and additional landscaping in the amount of \$25,000. Mr. Lang reviewed the proposed design for the bridge highlighting the increased visibility. Possible funding sources would be the 2017 general fund, state-aid street fund and/or Hormel Foundation grant.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member King, authorizing approximately \$150,000 in additional costs from the City on the 11<sup>th</sup> Drive NE bridge. Carried.

The item will be placed on the November 2, 2015 Council agenda.

### **Item No. 3 – 2016 Budget Review**

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert stated he hasn't received any requests for discussion of specific budget items. The final budget discussion will be at the November 2, 2015 work session.

### **Item No. 4 – 2015 Council Goals**

City Administrator Craig Clark provided an update to the 2015 Council goals stating that the Sustainability Task Force is reviewing the current ICS contract; Oak Park Mall made substantial progress recently and the DCA is working on economic incentives.

### **Item No. 5 – Open Discussion**

Council Member King requested modifying the order of the Council meeting to place the “Citizens addressing the Council” to the end of the meeting. The Council supported this idea and the change will be made to the November 2, 2015 Council agenda.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City received bids for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Plaza project and the bids were very high. The City is going to reevaluate the design of the project and rebid it in the middle of winter.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Hagen, adjourning the work session at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Ann M. Kasel  
City Clerk