

MAYER COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 9, 2021

Call Work Session to order at 6:55 p.m. by Mayor Dodge.

PRESENT: Mayor Dodge, Council Members Heldt, McNeilly, Millender, and Wegner.

ABSENT:

STAFF: City Administrator McCallum, Public Works Kuntz, and Deputy Clerk Gildemeister

ALSO PRESENT:

1. **Discussion on 2021 Street Project Update:** City Engineer David Martini presented a summary of the 2021 Street Project along with a review of the feasibility study and property assessment data. Martini stated the street project is progressing and tomorrow, August 10, 2021 the contractors will be paving the final lift on the west side of Highway 25. Stating we are starting to see the end of the project. Martini stated that it is time to start a conversation and get Council thinking about the assessment policy and public hearing. There were some concerns raised by some residents about the proposed assessment amount. Before the project was awarded, Bolton and Menk investigated three options to consider reducing the assessable amount of the project.

- Option 1: City to pay for the water main improvements
- Option 2: City to pay for the watermain and storm sewer
- Option 3: Capping some of the corner lot properties at 75 feet

Martini stated that per the current City of Mayer assessment policy, the City's portion is \$931,945.51. Martini explained, as you look at the as-bid on the feasibility study and the various options, if the City would be willing to take on more costs, it would still be in line with the original estimates. Mayor Dodge asked how much the fees went down from the feasibility study to as-bid. Martini stated there was a 5 to 6 thousand decrease based on the property and the good bids received. Dodge stated he would like to stay somewhere similar to the City's prior assessments which was back in 2007. Council acknowledged the cost of things have doubled and it may be difficult to keep the numbers the same. Martini recommended talking to the City's financial advisor. City Administrator stated that according to the advisors, the City does have the option to absorb some of the utility assessments. Council agreed they wanted to keep things fair. McNeilly stated that she has a hard time making an exception for this project because there is an assessment policy in place and wants to be consistent. Dodge asked what precedents the city will be setting if they make exceptions. Martini asked Council to discuss how long the city want to stretch the term out, 10 or 15 years. Council stated that reviewing the previous assessments would be helpful. McNeilly asked Staff to provide numbers from the original feasibility study at the next meeting. Dodge appreciated the update from Martini and stated this information helps, gives us options. Dodge asked Staff if any property owners been informed of the new numbers? City Administrator stated that residents have been given the bid amount and directed to the city website to view the feasibility study. Council had many questions on properties that were assessed with the last project and felt they needed to identify those properties and how much they paid. Mayor Dodge voice to Martini and City Administrator that he is a little disappointed in the length of time it is taking, however, they are still in the scope of the project and doing what they said they were going to do. Council thank Dave Martini for his information.

2. **Discussion on Fire Station Project -Sheriff's Department Office:** City Administrator McCallum reviewed the history of the sheriff's shared space at City Hall and informed Council there had been discussions with the Deputy Sheriff on the possibility of moving to the new Fire Station. McCallum stated that since the new building is going up that this would be good timing to consider the move. The benefits include increased security and privacy for some of the sensitive work that they perform. Fire Chief Maetzold stated that there is a shared office that could be utilized by Carver County Sheriff's. Deputy Sheriff Brad Hendricks was present to answer questions for Council. Deputy Hendricks informed Council that the current space does not allow him to lock up evidence and due to the limited, non-private space, interviews cannot be done. Council agreed this is a good idea. Mayor Dodge recommended Fire Chief Maetzold and Deputy Sheriff Hendricks get together and worked out details and logistics.

3. **Discussion on Carver County Sheriff's Department Contract 2022:** City Administrator presented the 2022 Carver County Sheriff's Department Contract for discussion. McCallum has been talking with current Deputy Sheriff Hendricks about hours. McCallum stated that tonight she would like to discuss the hours and how the current hours are working. Mayor Dodge asked if we know who will be the deputy will be in 2022? Sheriff Hendricks said no. Deputy Sheriff Hendricks started February 1, 2021 and is currently working a summer shift, 12 pm to 10 pm rotating four-day shift. Tuesday-Friday one week, then Wednesday to Saturday, the next week. Council asked Hendricks his opinion on working these shifts. Hendricks stated, being a long-time resident of Mayer, in his opinion there is no need to have a sheriff on duty after 10 pm because the town shuts down around 8 pm. It is the busiest around 5 to 6:30 pm when people return home. Five businesses in town close between 8 and 9 pm, and the 2 bars are open till 10 pm. Hendricks stated that the current four-day, rotating shift has been working well and has received positive feedback from residents and like that the sheriffs are coming around the neighborhoods on Saturdays. Council recommended Hendricks keep working with McCallum to make this a more appealing position, so future deputies want to come here. Hendricks recommended to keep the summer hours year-round.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Mike Dodge, Mayor

Attest: _____
Janell Gildemeister, City Clerk MCMC