

City of Long Prairie
6:00 P.M. Thursday October 7th, 2021
City Council Special Meeting

The Long Prairie City Council met at 43 Riverside Dr, at 6:00 pm on Thursday October 7th, 2021, Mayor Jodi Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members, Lilah Gripne, David Wright, Bob Klick, Dattrick Mitchell, and City Administrator/Clerk Ted Gray. Others present were Public Works Director Chad Bosl, City Engineer Kent Louwagie, Steve Laumeyer, Don Schmidt, Pat Schultz, Brad Thelen, Scott Thomas, and Dan Claseman

**Council member Klick motioned Mitchell seconded to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.**

(New Business)

Administrator Gray addressed the group that was in attendance to discuss and ask questions regarding the Riverside Drive portion of the proposed city road project. Administrator Gray asked if there was an area that the group wanted to visit on Riverside Drive or if they wanted to have City Engineer Kent Louwagie review questions that had been asked during the September 20th City Council meeting. The group was in favor of reviewing the questions from the September 20th meeting. Mr. Louwagie started by explaining the curb, gutter, and storm sewer portion of the project. There is a large amount of water traveling to Riverside Drive from the West. The proposed road design would follow state aid guidelines which would be a 40-foot-wide road between the curbs and between the paved shoulder edges. The curbing protects the edges of the pavement which would extend the life of the road. The curb also directs and controls drainage. A curb is planed from Fairview Ave to highway 71 north. South of Fairview the ditches are too shallow to allow for stormwater installation, the ditches will remain in place. Questions were raised regarding the control of this drainage and the new drainage allowing the water to move to the river system faster. Does the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) have concerns regarding this design and would that be a liability to the city allowing this. Also mentioned was the collection of sediments, sand, and salt from the runoff into the storm sewer. There would still need to be general maintenance on this street, such as street sweeping. Within the design the storm sewer manholes will include sumps at each of the storm sewer system which will capture sediments and they will need to be cleaned out regularly.

The discussion moved to the questions on why a 10-ton road was planned and shouldn't the industry, Long Prairie Packing pay more. The road design follows state aid guidelines which requires a 10-ton design due to the traffic counts. The street assessment rate is not increased due to the 10-ton road design. With the county participation they would cover a large portion of the street costs. If the county was not involved with this project, the city would assume 100% of the costs for the road. With the county being involved in reconstructing Riverside Drive the city has the opportunity to address the water and sewer frustrate under the road. The sewer line is from 1960's and is 8-inch clay pipe, the water line is 6-inch cast iron pipe also installed in the 1960's.

Questions were asked if the pipes had been televised or scoped to confirm the this. At this time no televising or scoping of the pipe has occurred. Another question was raised if the water and sewer lines are not causing any issues and are possibly in good condition are why are they being replaced. At this time, they may not have any issues, but due to the age of the water and sewer lines, they will need to be replaced before prior to the next road reconstruction. County Engineer Loren Fellbaum was in attendance and explained the county's portion of the road project. The county's intention is to do a full reconstruction of Riverside Drive, which removes all the pavement allowing for access to the water and sewer. This type of reconstruction of this road may not occur for another 50 years and if the city needs to replace the water and sewer before then, almost all the costs will be burdened solely by the city.

The discussion shifted to questions about the assessments associated to Riverside Drive for residents and businesses both in city limits and the county. The overall costs and calculation of the assessments in this area were a concern by the property owners in attendance. From the discussion and questions raised the city council will be reviewing the assessments in this area.

After no additional discussion on assessments, Steve Laumeier asked for the council to review a spot on his property regarding a concern with storm water runoff. The city will be reviewing the placement of a catch basin that area.

After no further discussion Council member Dixon motioned and Klick seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 pm. Motion unanimously carried.

Ted Gray
City Administrator/Clerk

Jodi Dixon
Mayor