

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 26, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Auringer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- The Pledge was said.

ROLL CALL

- Council Members present: Garrett Steinberg, Beth Rohrich, Anthony White, and Mayor Auringer.
- Staff present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland and Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch.

AGENDA

1. Review of Special Benefit Analysis Report for CSAH 27 (Agency Street) Reconstruction Project
 - Administrator Bromeland stated the report was received today and that it will be available for public inspection after the meeting and if Council wishes, it can be posted online at well.
 - Brian Sarff, with Bolton and Menk, explained that the consultant looked at several types of properties: single family residential, multi-family units, non-residential/commercial, agricultural, and miscellaneous.
 - Through a detailed analysis of residential properties, it has been determined that a benefit gain of \$7,500-\$8,000 would be received from the project. Multi-family units were calculated on a per unit basis, with a decreased rate for parcels with more units. Non-residential properties were looked at on an individual basis. Agricultural parcels were evaluated with development potential being taken into consideration. Miscellaneous parcels include vacant parcels and city owned parcels.
 - Parcels with common ownership which function as single parcels would receive one assessment. Parcels with common ownership that function as separate parcels would receive two assessments.
 - Council will need to determine how to assess corner lots, lots with multiple fronts, and undevelopable lots.
 - The approximate amount of assessments calculated in this report are between \$617,000 - \$665,000, which is between 21%-23% of total project cost, including Blue Earth County's portions. Agricultural and commercial parcels are driving up this percentage.
 - Mr. Sarff stated he believes this report was well done.
 - Council discussion included the desire to verify with the consultant how the Hansen property's agricultural land was handled.
 - Bob Winkler, resident on Agency Street, stated he does not feel this project adds any value to the parcels he owns and feels the city needs to construct a water filtration plant to address discolored water. He also stated he has a parcel which he feels is unbuildable.
 - Administrator Bromeland explained that the next steps include a May 3rd City Council meeting in which a public hearing will be called and scheduled. June 7th's City Council meeting will include the public hearing. Notices will be mailed to property owners two weeks in advance of the public hearing. The Special Benefit Analysis report will become a final report when the City indicates to the consultant that no changes are needed. Legal counsel has indicated putting the draft report on the city's website is acceptable upon Council's approval.
 - Council directed staff to place the report on the City's website and to make residents aware of this and to allow them time to review and bring comments to the city.
 - Mayor Auringer stated this may be an appropriate time for Council to review the city's assessment policy.
2. Street Lighting Study
 - Brian Sarff, Bolton and Menk, presented finding from a street lighting study along Agency Street. The benchmark used for lighting levels is from MNDot which recommends sidewalks at 0.3 footcandles and 0.6 for street footcandles. The current lighting level for the sidewalk is 0.2 footcandles with lighting on approximately every third pole. If lights were added to every pole plus adding two additional poles between Maywood and LeSueur the footcandles would be increased to 0.6. This study does not take into consideration light and dark locations.

- Council discussion included the current darkness of Agency Street and the desire to illuminate intersections for pedestrian crossing safety. It was mentioned that North Agency Street does not really have ample lighting and that there are lights on every pole in that area currently.
 - The cost for this additional lighting will be \$10 per month for each additional light added.
 - Council directed Brian Sarff and Administrator Bromeland to schedule a meeting with Xcel regarding scheduling this work.
3. Review Applications Received for Vacant City Council Seat and Discuss Next Steps to Fill Vacancy
- Administrator Bromeland explained that eight applications have been received. There is no prescribed method for filling the vacancy other than the vacancy can be filled by appointment.
 - Council discussion included the desire to appoint an individual who has experience on city boards or commissions or who regularly attends City Council meetings.
 - Council decided to interview the top three applicants and that each Council member will individually score all applicants and submit their top three choices to Administrator Bromeland who will compile the final list of applicants to be interviewed from each Council Member's recommendations.
 - Applicants will be interviewed Monday, May 3, 2021 in a work session prior to the City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Tim Auringer, Mayor

Kerry Rausch, Deputy Clerk