

**SAUK CENTRE CITY COUNCIL/NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2007– 6:00 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Sauk Centre City Council met for a Neighborhood Meeting on Wednesday, August 30, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers pursuant to due notice being given thereof. Present were Mayor Brad Kirckof, Council Members David Thomas, Warren Stone and Al Coenen. Also present were City Administrator/Clerk Vicki Willer, City Engineers Keith and Justin with Bonestroo and Administrative Assistant Nicki Vogt. Council Member Johnson was absent. Mayor Kirckof presided thereat.

**3. COMMENTS**

Mayor Kirckof stated that the Council will be holding two separate meetings for Ash Street to inform citizens of the project. City Engineer Yapp will make a presentation and following the presentation he will open for general questions. Once all general questions are over the meeting will close and homeowners can get their individual property questions answered. Mayor Kirckof noted that this meeting is for informational purposes only.

The purpose of the project is due to the fact that the road is very worn out and no longer has structural integrity.

City Engineer Yapp stated that the preliminary assessment numbers will be presented individually after the general question and answer session.

Ash Street has been there for 60 years which is well beyond its life. The road is brittle and falling apart. Seventeen trees are slated for potential removal as they are close to the road and their roots will be cut during the process. The existing sanitary sewer, water main and storm sewer will be replaced from Sinclair Lewis Avenue to 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The road will be surfaced with 4 inches of bituminous. Any existing sidewalk that is in poor condition will either be removed or replaced. New 5 foot sidewalk will be placed in front of homes with no existing sidewalk. Tenth through 12<sup>th</sup> Street will receive a 2 inch overlay of bituminous.

City Engineer Yapp stated that the Council is still discussing the possibility of replacing the lights as this is an opportune time to do so.

The total estimated cost of the project is 1.6 million. The Public Utilities Commission will pay the sewer/water cost at approximately \$400,000. The City will pay 50% of the project cost which is estimated at \$427,000. The typical single family assessment totals \$8,370.37. The project timeline is as follows:

- Public Hearing - 9/19/07
- Project Bid – Early February 2008
- Project Award – Late February/Early March 2008
- Begin Construction – Early to mid-May on north end and June for South end

- Substantial Completion – End of August 2008.

City Engineer Yapp opened for the following questions:

Is Ash Street going to be widened? The road is currently 36 feet wide and there has been discussion to widen the road to 40 feet which would allow for better traffic flow; however, the Council does not anticipate widening the road.

A representative from REM stated that their employees currently park on the road and in the driveway. She is concerned about mobility issues, etc. during the project. City Engineer Yapp stated that they want to work closely with those that have such issues and they will try and accommodate as best they can.

Why is the project assessed 50/50 when the road is a major thoroughfare?

Assessment policy dictates that 100% of the cost is assessed to property owners but because this is a major thoroughfare, the City has opted to pay 50%.

What is the construction process?

One block at a time. The property owners will still be able to get to their homes. The workers will start early in the morning and each night the area will be closed up and re-hooked so the utilities can be used. Notice will be given to property owners when they plan to do work in front of their homes. The water is currently on the West side of the road and the new water will be placed on the East side. The purpose is to keep everyone in service as much as possible. As they go through, they will bypass pump around the area that is being worked on. Property owners will only be out of service for a brief period of time.

How do the assessments work? The City will bond for the project and will then add administrative fees. In October of 2008 the City will hold the assessment hearing at which the final numbers will be provided. Those numbers will then get certified against the property for approximately 10 years. The assessments can be prepaid, but the entire amount must be prepaid before it is certified against the property.

Why put a new sidewalk on the East side? To eliminate people walking on the street. It is a safety issue.

Where will the sidewalks be placed? Near the Right of Way. There are no definite plans at this point.

Who pays for the sidewalks? The sidewalks will be assessed to the property owners. Any sidewalks that need to be replaced will be marked with paint.

Is there a problem with the sewer now? The current sewer is old and well beyond its service life. The risk of collapse is great.

Can a homeowner choose to replace their services? Yes. Yapp encourages homeowners to consider replacing their services at this time since their yard, etc. is already dug up. If they choose to replace at a later date they may need to replace the sidewalk. Homeowners will need to hire a licensed plumber to hook up their services. This can be coordinated so that the plumber and developer are working on this together.

Are the lights going to be replaced, and, if so, who is going to pay? A decision has not been made regarding replacing the existing lights. If the lights are replaced they will be replaced with lights similar to those in new developments within the City. The lights will not be similar to those on Sinclair Lewis Avenue. The Assessment Policy reads that lights are assessable to the property owner.

What is wrong with the existing lights? There is an inconsistency in the current lighting. They want to be sure there is adequate and consistent lighting.

Do decorative lights put out more lighting? Decorative lights are designed to shine better and put out more light.

If road is widened, can sidewalk be placed against the curb? It can; however, they would like to have a bigger separation between the pedestrians and traffic. Also, for plowing purposes it is nice to have a separation between the road and sidewalk so there is a place for the snow.

What happens when the bid is at one amount and the contractor comes back with a higher amount at the end of the project? Money is not paid for work that a contractor does not do. The contractor is getting paid per unit, not a lump sum.

Can a homeowner opt to have their whole sidewalk replaced? Yes, but they must inform Bonestroo ahead of time.

One person suggested making 9<sup>th</sup> Street to the school a one way road. Another person suggested installing stop signs to reduce the speed of traffic.

Yapp took a poll on those that were interested in widening the road and the majority of those present were against widening the road. The majority were in favor of parking on one side of the road.

Yapp then took a poll on those interested in installing stop signs and the majority were interested in installing stop signs.

Mayor Kirckof thanked everyone for coming.

Council Member Stone thanked everyone for coming and encouraged them to call if they have any questions.

Council Member Thomas stated that a good time to get questions answered regarding Ash Street is prior to the September 19<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing.

Council Member Coenen invited citizens to come to the Council Meetings and speak at the public open forums if they have concerns/complaints. He also suggested talking to Chief Metcalf about speeding concerns on Ash Street. Coenen urged property owners that, if the project does move forward, to read their assessments and appeal within 30 days if they do not agree.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Stone and seconded by Council Member Thomas to adjourn the meeting. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Stone, Thomas, Coenen and Mayor Kirckof. Against: None. Absent: Council Member Johnson. The motion passed.

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Kirckof adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mayor Brad A. Kirckof

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City Administrator Vicki Willer