

**OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL 29, 2013**

**7:00 P.M.**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

**PRESENT:** Mayor Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor Pro-Tem Cindy S. Popovitch, Councilpersons Loreen F. Bailey, Thomas B. Cook, Michael J. Erfourth, and Christopher T. Eveleth.

**ABSENT:** Councilperson Burton D. Fox.

There was discussion regarding amending the agenda to include a budget discussion as well as setting a time limit for the meeting.

Motion by Councilperson Erfourth to set a meeting time limit of 9:00 pm.

Motion supported by Councilperson Eveleth and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to approve the agenda with the addition of Item of Business 3. Budget Discussion.

Motion supported by Councilperson Cook and concurred in by unanimous vote.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET CORRIDOR STUDY: PRESENTATION BY STUDENTS FROM THE MSU CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

A five member group from the Michigan State Center for Community and Economic Development conducted a comprehensive study of the South Washington Street corridor to determine a strategy to enhance the corridor between Baker College and the downtown in an effort to stimulate economic growth and create a sense of place for this entryway into the City. Four members of the group were on hand to present their report addressing the existing issues, and their recommendations, for South Washington Street from the Shiawassee River Bridge south to Gute Street. The assessment performed consisted of gathering and analyzing demographic information, a market analysis, a streetscape, roadway and housing inventory, a commercial/industrial inventory, an assessment of all of the intersections, and gathering stakeholder input. Utilizing the Complete Streets standards they made short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations for each block of the corridor. A sampling of their recommendations is as follows:

Short-Term Recommendations (3 months – 1 year):

- Stripe for a bike lane
- Stripe all cross walks
- Stripe the street for 2 lanes of traffic w/ turn lane
- Install pertinent wayfinding signage
- Partner with property owners to install landscaping

Mid-Term Recommendations (1 year – 3 years):

- Install pedestrian lighting
- Repairing/removing pedestrian obstructions

Long-Term Recommendations (3 years – 5 years):

- Widen sidewalks
- Achieve compliance with ADA accessibility guidelines
- Encourage the development of retail business
- Encourage façade improvements

Mayor Frederick thanked the group for their work on the project.

The meeting recessed from 7:29 pm until 7:35 pm to prepare for the next presentation.

**CITYWIDE PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT STUDY: PRESENTATION BY DR. ABBAS BUTT ON THE PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT STUDY WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS**

Dr. Abbas Butt was again on hand to present further information on the pavement management study his company conducted on City streets. The presentation included an overview of the survey work the company had initially conducted along with added information gleaned from additional scans of the streets. Each block of the City's 150 lane miles of street were analyzed using automated distress survey equipment, ground penetrating radar, and surface deflection technology. All of the information collected was deposited in a database and further analyzed to determine a numerical value defining the condition of each block of pavement. Using West Oliver Street as an example, Dr. Butt detailed how the information collected could be used to determine the strength of the pavement and the type of maintenance that would be most appropriate for each section of the street. He and his staff have assembled the data into a usable database and pertinent City staff will be trained on how to utilize the data for the development of a pavement management program.

Dr. Butt spent a significant amount of time discussing the deteriorating overall rating of the street system as a whole, indicating that his research showed a steep decline in the overall score of the system over the course of the next 20 years should the current maintenance standards go unchanged. He strongly encouraged the Council to develop design standards for the different types of streets within the City to ensure that any work performed in the future could be held to a written and approved standard, avoiding some of the recent trouble the City has had with sub-par work from contractors. He went on to say that significant funds will need to be dedicated to street maintenance/reconstruction in order to reverse the downward trend but the hope was that the information he collected would allow the City to make strategic maintenance decisions and ensure the best use of the funds available.

There was discussion regarding the use of new materials to safeguard decent quality streets from further deterioration, slurry sealing streets within a couple of years of reconstruction, avoiding the temptation to lower the quality of repairs to keep the assessments low, including slurry sealing in the initial costs for reconstruction, and the potential need to let some low scoring streets remain as they are to allow higher scoring streets to be preventatively maintained.

City Manager Crawford introduced Randy Chesney as the City's new contract engineer. He will be assisting current staff on a part time basis. Mr. Chesney indicated he had experience in pavement management and he felt that a new maintenance philosophy could gradually lift the overall quality level of the street system.

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to extend the meeting 5 minutes to allow for citizen comments. Motion supported by Councilperson Erfourth and concurred in by unanimous vote.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION** (this item was added to the agenda)

This item was not addressed due to a lack of time.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS & QUESTIONS**

Eddie Urban, 601 Glenwood Avenue, inquired if there was any way to mix steel with the asphalt to make it stronger. He also inquired whether the City has any equipment that could be used to determine the density of the layers hidden underneath the pavement. Dr. Butt noted that his company had already conducted such a survey and the information was included in the database.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth for adjournment at 9:08 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Erfourth and concurred in by unanimous vote.

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Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor

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Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk