

CITY OF OWOSSO
5TH MONDAY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JANUARY 30, 2017
7:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: MAYOR CHRISTOPHER T. EVELETH

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: MAYOR PRO-TEM SUSAN J. OSIKA

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher T. Eveleth, Mayor Pro-Tem Susan J. Osika, Councilpersons Loreen F. Bailey, Burton D. Fox, Elaine M. Greenway, Daniel A. Law, and Robert J. Teich, Jr.

ABSENT: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Teresa Klockziem, 841 Center Street, commented on the condition of Center Street saying a large portion of it appeared to be in good shape and didn't appear to need to be redone.

County Commissioner Dan McMaster detailed the latest activities of the Commission including their recent walk-through of County departments. He noted the poor condition of the jail and decisions that will have to be made as a result of its deteriorating condition.

Len Tobias, Lennon, thanked the officers that caught the murder suspects over the weekend. He went on to highlight the need for a place where people can legally buy medical marijuana in a safe, controlled environment.

Ray Farley, 716 Nafus Street, asked when south Chestnut Street will be redone.

Callen Latz, Ovid, indicated he makes the trip to Lansing twice a month to purchase his medical marijuana because he feels safer purchasing from a dispensary rather than a private care-giver.

Matthew Abel, attorney with Cannabis Counsel, indicated he represents the owners of the former dispensary at the corner of Washington Street and Corunna Avenue who have been waiting for the changes to the Medical Marijuana law to come into effect. He said he is pleased Council is having this discussion and hopes that dispensaries would once again be allowed in the City. Lastly, he distributed to Council a fact sheet put out by the MML.

Mayor Eveleth thanked local law enforcement for their help in catching the two people suspected of murdering two Flint men in a drug deal gone bad.

Mayor Eveleth went on to address Ms. Klockziem's question telling her an in-depth study of street conditions had been conducted and that while a street may look good on the surface there may be damage underneath that may not be readily apparent. That being said he indicated the condition of the street would be verified prior to proceeding with any project.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Changes in the Medical Marijuana Law

City Manager Donald D. Crawford briefly detailed the amended Medical Marijuana Law and the City's current ordinance regulating medical marijuana related operations. He noted that while staff receives frequent calls from parties interested in establishing medical marijuana facilities in the city Council has a number of months in which to decide what action to take, if any. If the Council takes no action by the law's effective date medical marijuana facilities, as defined by the law, would be prohibited within the city limits.

City Attorney William C. Brown explained that the State has created designations for five types of facilities each of which the Council will need to address. He encouraged the members to study the new law and think about the affects each type of facility might have on a neighborhood and how each type of facility might be regulated. Lastly, he reminded Council that they could take advantage of the counsel of the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Teich inquired about the details of the current ordinance. Community Development Director Susan K. Montenegro indicated that growing facilities currently had to be located a particular distance from sensitive areas with the distance not only insulating sensitive locations but also serving to govern the number of facilities permitted. She went on to point out there was no need to use the distance requirements going forward.

Councilmember Bailey said she was happy to hear there would be educational opportunities she could avail herself of prior to making any decisions. She also expressed her preference that the City's regulations closely match those of the State.

Councilmember Fox said he felt this topic would require a number of meetings before decisions could be reached. He suggested that a citizen committee might help the process.

Councilmember Law said medical marijuana facilities were coming whether Council was comfortable with them or not. He said he understood the stigma of the subject but encouraged people to have an open mind and embrace the business opportunities it presents.

Councilmembers Fox and Law encouraged the participation of a citizen committee in the process.

Staff will assemble information from other communities and experts and will bring the topic back to Council in two to three months.

Street Program Overview

Director of Public Services Glenn M. Chinavare and Engineer Randy J. Chesney were present to give Council an overview of the street program and how the street bond funding will be used.

Mr. Chesney started the discussion by providing some detail on the Oliver Street reconstruction project, reminding Council that the project will take place in two phases over the course of 2 summers. Phase 1 is proposed for this summer, bids for the project should be received by MDOT on Friday, and construction is slated to start in May and end in September. Prior to the start of construction Consumers Energy will be replacing gas mains along the street from Washington to Gould.

Engineer Chesney then moved on to discuss the current condition of the street system. Last November, Owosso citizens approved a \$10-million street bond proposal to fix the streets. While the proceeds generated from the proposal will help fix many roads, it will not satisfy the total need. Fixing the "worst-first" is the most straight forward approach, but most local agencies use an asset management process to optimize use of their funds. Each street is viewed as an asset with a liability that increases over time. A new road should last 50 years if it is properly built and maintained. Chip sealing should be considered after 10-15 years. Resurfacing should be considered when pavement's life reaches 15-20 years, with follow up resurfacing every 10-20 years thereafter. After 50 years the street should be considered again for reconstruction. Unfortunately, our road system has fallen behind this schedule and it will take several generations to get back on track.

He went on to say that approximately 25% of the City's streets require complete reconstruction with an estimated cost of \$3 million per mile and 50% of the streets require resurfacing or rehabilitation with estimates between \$850,000 and \$2.25 million per mile. Properly repairing all the streets today would cost approximately \$45 million and that cost will increase by at least \$2 million each year. In an effort to get the street system back on track he said the bond proceeds would need to be leveraged to expand the total budget. He suggested that incorporating the following funding sources with the bond funds could increase the available pool of funds to over \$16.5 million: grants, Public Act 51 funds, and special assessments.

He then presented a list of 64 street sections that would be good candidates for maximizing the City's return on investment. His selection process involved looking for streets with good curb and gutter, hadn't had major maintenance in more than 15 years, and fit the objectives of the plan. He suggested establishing a series of three-year plans from this list. The plan would be used as a working document for scheduling individual projects. Its budget would require periodic adjustment as the selected projects are completed and changes, such as ability to secure funds from other sources, pricing, and unforeseen circumstances found in the field, are encountered.

There was discussion among Council regarding who would oversee the various projects and ensure the City receives a quality product, hiring a full time employee to monitor the projects, and contracting out for such services. Staff indicated that contracting for monitoring services would be more cost effective due to the temporary nature of the work.

Councilmember Fox inquired about a sewer issue over by the Baptist Church. Staff noted that when the weather breaks the street will be excavated, the lines televised, and the street surface patched.

Staff also answered questions previously presented by Ms. Klockziem and Mr. Farley. Center Street is scheduled for reconstruction due to the fact the pavement is too thin to grind and resurface necessitating its removal and replacement. Chestnut Street will receive some heavy maintenance when funds are available in an effort to buy time to secure grant funding.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 06, 2017

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS

Building Board of Appeals – Alternate - term expires June 30, 2018
Parks & Recreation Commission – term expires June 30, 2017
Parks & Recreation Commission – term expires June 30, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Greenway for adjournment at 8:49 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilmember Teich and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Christopher T. Eveleth, Mayor

Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk