

**City of Blue Earth  
Minutes Street Committee  
June 29, 2022 @ 4:00 P.M.  
Council Chambers**

**Call to Order:**

Ray Wigern called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

**Members Present:** Russ Erichsrud, Marty Cassem, Ray Wigern, Gary Armon and Randy Ficken, and Dan Brod.

**Staff:** City Engineer Wes Brown, Project Manager; Ben Rosol, Bolton & Menk; City Administrator, Mary Kennedy; Public Works Director, Jamie Holland

**Public:**

**Approval of Minutes**

*Motion by Cassem, second by Erichsrud to approve the Street Committee Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Old Business:**

**Wigern addressed the 2022 Project Updates.**

**Project Manager Ben Rosol gave 2021 10<sup>th</sup>, Nicollet, Walnut, and Hood Street Project Updates.**

Rosol indicated that the 10<sup>th</sup>, Nicollet, Walnut, and Hood Street Project has been completed with just minor punch list items remaining. The calling for the Public Hearing is scheduled for the July 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting for the hearing to be scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

**Project Manager Ben Rosol gave Safe Routes to School Project Update.**

Project Manager Ben Rosol gave Safe Routes to School Project update, with the project almost completed with the contractor agreement in place and waiting for the final approval from Union Pacific Railroad for the crossing on North Main Street.

**Project Manager Ben Rosol gave N Gorman, First, Fourth St. Improvements.**

Project Manager Ben Rosol gave the 2022 street project update for N Gorman, First, Fourth Streets, indicating that the project has been moving along nicely with 1<sup>st</sup> Street repairs complete and gravel being restored by the end of the week, with crews moving onto North Gorman Street. Rosol advised that there are two crews on site for the project.

**New Business:**

**Wigern addressed Turf Establishment for discussion.**

Kennedy advised that city staff has received complaints from residents regarding the North Sailor Street Project with the establishment of the grass. Kennedy questioned the past street projects, inquiring what steps can be taken to resolve these issues. Brown indicated that going forward there will need to be a bigger discussion of how to handle this type of issue, signifying that with the Sailor Street project work getting done later in the year than usual, the time frame wasn't ideal for the sod, and it didn't have time to take, causing the issue we are seeing, as well as residents not following through with watering. Brown reviewed the watering agreement with the 30-day warranty. Kennedy advised that there are five property complaints, Campbell, Weringa, Knutson, Fairchild, and Bogan. Rosol questioned restoring the problem properties. Brown suggested possible solutions.

#### **Brown addressed Future Turf Establishment Methods.**

Brown reviewed different types of methods of turf and the needs that would be required to establish the turf. Kennedy indicated that she would like three items determined, sod or seeding, having the solutions for these issues and expectations of everyone involved to respond to the complaints at hand, and so residents aren't waiting for a response, we would have a policy in place. Armon inquired seeding instead of sod and the difference between time frames for establishment. Kennedy suggested that the city can't be going back and forth every year restoring lawns on multi-million-dollar projects, especially when people aren't going to take it upon themselves to do the watering. Holland questioned slit seeding this fall on North Sailor Street, Rosol indicated with how dense it is that it would need to be removed. Holland recommended hauling in black dirt and letting the homeowner do the repairs, advising that the Public Works crew won't have the time or the crew to complete a project of that size doing the repairs, policy states that they had 30 days to let the city know under the warranty. Wigren question the difference of Hydo seeding vs drill seeding.

***Motion by Armon to continue with sodding rather than seeding for future projects.***

***Motion by Armon to amend the first motion.***

***Motion by Armon, second by Cassem to continue as we have been doing the sodding. The motion passed unanimously.***

Wigren questioned how to handle the currant complaints and recommending the committee come up with a policy for future complaints. Kennedy recommended calling for a hearing so that all issues can be heard. Brod suggested that having property owners contact the City prior to the hearing so things can be looked at and have a solution. Kennedy suggested notifying everyone on the project and allowing time for complaints, by taking care of it now its setting of a precedence to the one that attend the hearing. Wigren suggested not fixing any of the properties in accordance with the policy. Holland recommended hauling in pulverized black dirt and letting the homeowner do the repairs, advising that the Public Works crew won't have the time to complete a project of that size and repairs.

***Motion by Armon, second by Cassem to forego the city repairing any property and allow only repairs to be done by contractors during the 30-day warranty and ultimate two-year project warranty.***

Brown reviewed a couple of the properties, that would still need to have repairs in specific areas at Knutson's and Campbells properties, these being covered under the project warranty.

***The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **Project Manager Ben Rosol addressed Private Landscaping Conflicts.**

Project Manager Ben Rosol brought forth private landscaping conflicts, suggesting that he is dealing with two different water irrigation system that had been installed in the right of way,

one which the systems second row would have to be dug up and adjusted to meet the changes of height of the adjustment made to the curb. Rosol indicated that the policy states that if a property own installs anything in the public right of way becomes the issue of the property owner and will not be the issue of the city. Rosol indicated that the homeowners installed the system in the right of way. Kennedy advised that most people don't understand what a right of way is unless they have either had it discussed with them or they work in the city or are a contractor. Kennedy recommended more information be included during public hearing for residents with the hope of an understanding that when they do this, that even though they are required to maintain the property that it is still city property and is their responsibility. Holland reviewed street widths from the center of the street to the sidewalk, indicating that residence should be contacting the city and getting a permit before proceeding with any property projects.

**Wigern addressed Future Street Projects.**

Brown reviewed the project list and map for 2023, scheduled is the Linton Street project with the main transmission line. Stoner didn't attend the meeting to discuss the project, the thought of the committee is to hold off that project moving 2024 project up to 2023 and the 2023 replacing with 2024.

**County Projects in Blue Earth.**

Brown indicated that the material in the packet is information only, this being the county project list.

***Motion by Armon, second by Erichsrud to adjourn the Street Committee Meeting at 5:52pm.  
The motion passed unanimously.***