



**City of Blue Earth
Minutes Street Committee
August 24, 2022 @ 4:00 P.M.
Council Chambers**

Call to Order:

Gary Armon called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Members Present: Russ Erichsrud, Marty Cassem, Gary Armon, and Randy Ficken.

Absent: Ray Wigern and Dan Brod

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

VIA Teams

Blue Earth Light & Water, Tim Stoner.

Public:

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Erichsrud, second by Cassem to approve the Street Committee Meeting Minutes from April 29, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Armon addressed the 2022 Project Updates.

Project Manager Ben Rosol gave the 2022 project updates for 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, Holtmeier will finish pavement removals on Gorman Street, 4th Street, and 9th Streets. The grading crew started the gravel on Gorman Street from 7th Street to 5th Street for the preparation of paving, with the grading crew preparing Gorman Street and the 1st Street Area. The hope is paving on these streets will be started by the end of the week. Armon complimented Holtmeier on their work. Holland agreed, indicating Holtmeier has done well with creating relationships with entities within the city, ideally helping make the project run smoother.

Next, Holland updated the committee on the progress of the reseeded project that the Council approved for N. Sailor Street.

New Business:

2023 Street Project

Armon addressed the 2023 Street Project, reviewing the Street Improvement Program updated project list. 2023 project would entail 3rd Street (Main to Rice Street), Moore Street (4th to 1st Street), Galbraith Street (3rd Street to 1st Street) and Ramsey Street (5th Street to 1st Street) & Ramsey to dead end. Brown reviewed the areas with the Street Committee, advising that this would finish off this area of the city.

Armon pointed out the infrastructure issues in the proposed 2023 project area, recommending finishing up the streets in that area.

Ericksrud inquired if this size of project would be in the city budget. Kennedy advised that at this time she was unsure if this size of project would be in the budget, suggesting that the Council is moving towards keeping the levy at 3.5% and with rising costs including inflation at 8%, budget needs, and debt service maintenance. Kennedy indicated that the street debt service catches up two years later and the unknown interest rates of the future. Kennedy implied that she is not trying to discourage a street project but advising that this year will be different than prior years, with the budget turning to a needs budget rather than wish list items, implying that just in street debt service there is \$2 million to be paid in 2023.

Armon recommended researching the information and prioritize the projects. Brown implied that he felt that the project list was adequate with how they are laid out, recommending doing the preliminary plan and bringing that back to the Street Committee for review before taking it to the Council with the Street Committee recommendations.

Armon Inquired Blue Earth Light & Water's position for doing another street project, Stoner indicated that Light & Water would be fine doing this, there is some delays with supplies with some items taking up to 3 years. Stoner implied that this will only get worse before it gets better.

Motion by Cassem, second by Ericksrud to proceed with the preliminary plan and bringing that back to the Street Committee for review before taking it to the Council with the Street Committee recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Holland reviewed the 2023 sealcoat projects, recommending the North Industrial Park, Tanglewood Lane and Oak Knoll.

Holland advised that he will be meeting with Mark Daly and MN Dot next week to discuss the fencing on Hwy 169 near Subway, indicating that Daley doesn't feel there is a need for that fencing and it should be taken out as it only causes issues with ice.

Holland brought forth the recommendation of Mark Daley for the crosswalk strip painting of the roundabouts with MNDOT.

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