

CITY OF MONTEVIDEO  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
June 14, 2021

The Montevideo City Council held a Worksession on Monday, June 14, 2021 in the Montevideo City Hall Council Chambers. The council had set the Worksession by motion on May 27, 2021. Council President Schmidt called the council meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for streets and utilities.

Council members present: President Nathan Schmidt, Bryce Curtiss, Steve Sulflow and Beverly Olson. Absent: Dan Sanborn. Mayor Winter absent.

Staff present: City Manager Robert Wolfington, City Clerk Glennis Lauritsen, City Engineer Mike Amborn, Public Works Director Aaron Blom, Utilities Superintendent Byron Hayunga, (outgoing) Finance Director Jan Flaherty and (incoming) Finance Director Tami Schuelke-Sampson.

City Engineer Amborn distributed copies of the city's current Street Construction Plan, an associated map and a map highlighting current State Aid routes and proposed state aid routes.

City Manager Wolfington provided a brief background of the issue, stating that the current plan serves as a guide for future street improvements. There is currently no utility construction plan in place; therefore, staff would like to incorporate utility improvements as well. Wolfington noted that the city was successful in obtaining a \$1.1 Million Local Improvement Grant for the Ashmore Avenue/24th Street area. City Engineer Amborn expounded on the grant opportunity, discussing grant criteria, including a traffic volume component which is evident in this particular area due to the proximity of Walmart and Jennie-O. The grant focuses on regional significance; therefore, the improvement area is a good fit for this type of grant.

City Engineer Amborn and Public Works Director Blom reviewed and discussed the Street Construction Plan, which listed proposed improvement projects over a 10-year time period (2021-2030). Staff asked that the council take a look at the plan for adequacy, suggestions for changes, etc. Discussion took place regarding the specific projects, with a reminder that Petitions were on file for two projects - North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Ost Avenue to the cemetery and Wolfe Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Street to Highway 29, which are currently slated for 2025.

City Engineer Amborn then referred to the State Aid map for discussion. Existing State-Aid streets include a section of Wolfe Avenue connecting into Ridgeview Drive, and 5<sup>th</sup> Street between State Road and Black Oak Avenue. These State Aid routes can be re-designated by the city, as desired, as long as the route meets certain criteria. The council discussed a number of

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scenarios for possible re-designation, including the Ashmore Avenue/24th Street area, Black Oak Avenue (17<sup>th</sup> Street to County Road 15) and Sheridan Avenue (17<sup>th</sup> Street to County Road 15).

The funding side of street improvements was discussed briefly and impact to the city's levy. City Manager Wolfington stated that in addition to the projects listed, additional improvements have been discussed, including a sidewalk replacement project in the downtown areas and retaining wall improvements.

Utilities Superintendent Hayunga stated that a priority for utility improvements would include South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Park Avenue to William Avenue for sewer (due to disintegrating concrete pipes) and Park to Nichols for water. This is an area where frequent main breaks have occurred due to old lines. The areas are not currently listed in the plan.

City Engineer Amborn noted the importance of a Street/Utility Construction Plan, particularly when grant opportunities come along, so that the city is ahead of the game with a project in mind. Amborn noted that some of the factors considered in prioritizing projects is condition of the street, traffic volume, whether there is curb/gutter and drive-ability. Council President Schmidt asked about incorporating a scoring system to justify the contents of the plan. Staff agreed that this would be a good idea, and Amborn stated he would reach out to his colleagues on the matter.

Staff indicated that they were not looking for decisions on the proposed plan at this time; however, they asked that the council keep it in mind for further discussion during budget planning. Council members were also encouraged to drive around the community to look at the areas listed in the plan and/or any other areas of concern.

City Manager Wolfington informed the council that the June 21<sup>st</sup> council meeting would be held at the new public works facility, with a tour of the facility to take place as well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

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Glennis A. Lauritsen, Secretary

Approved by council June 21, 2021:

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President - City Council