

CITY OF MONTEVIDEO  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
June 24, 2024

The city council met in a worksession on Monday, June 24, 2024 in the council chambers at city hall. President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The worksession had been set by the council on May 20<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of discussing future road improvement projects, and for any other business that might come before the council.

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

Also present was City Manager Robert Wolfington, City Engineer Mike Amborn, Finance Director Jill Strand, Public Works Director Aaron Blom, Utilities Superintendent Ryan Gallagher and City Clerk Tami Schuelke-Sampson.

2. Discussion Items.

2(A) FUTURE STREET PROJECTS.

A memo was provided which listed an order for the topics to be discussed. The topics included the following:

1. Recent Completed Projects
2. Review Current Capital Improvement Plan
3. State Road Project
4. Smith Addition Streets/Utilities
5. Street Survey

RECENT COMPLETED PROJECTS

City Engineer Amborn supplied a handout that reviewed the last 5 years of projects. He explained that the past projects were completed with items that needed to be done and if the project was selected for grant funding. When applying for grants, it is beneficial to be able to show that a lot of thought has gone into the planning.

Council has been mostly satisfied with the projects completed and the city staff working to fit the projects within a budget. The grass on Wolfe Avenue was discussed. City Engineer Amborn is working to get the contractor there.

## REVIEW CURRENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The city staff is ready to do a comprehensive review of all potential projects. The current CIP needs to be revamped to come up with the top five priority projects. Work with the finance department and Ehlers to develop a plan because much of the utilities are at the end of their life. We can line sewer to get about 10 years more use, but not water lines, if the pavement is in good shape.

Public Works Director Blom explained that something that needs to be considered is that blade patching the roads cannot be done anymore because we are unable to get the oil to make the patch. Blom explained there are 3 items to look at when considering a potential project. 1) Condition of the street/ride quality, 2) Traffic volume and 3) Condition of utilities under the street. City Manager Wolfington encouraged everyone to drive around and look at every street.

## STATE ROAD PROJECT

The State Road project is more than just a street project. It will take about one year of engineering planning at an estimated cost of \$300,000. This would be out of the city's pocket. To complete a total project of State Road, the estimated project cost is \$3.5 million and it would take multiple years. An area of concern is that the assessments would be greater than the value of some of the properties.

There was discussion on retaining walls along State Road and this project could also include property acquisitions. Council would like staff to research what other cities that have comparable terrain and retaining walls do and if these cities have a policy. It would be beneficial if the city would have a policy put in place before this project would begin.

## SMITH ADDITION STREETS/UTILITIES

City Manager Wolfington has been asked by council members and the public about Smith Addition. The city does not permit development due to it being flood prone. Most remaining residential property owners that live in Smith Addition have been offered buy-outs but have not accepted. After discussion, it was decided to maintain the streets and utilities with what is currently there as best we can.

## STREET SURVEY

Public Works Director Blom is currently driving all the streets and making record of what kind of street, curb & gutter, utility cuts, cracking, traffic volume, connector street and overall ride. He is then giving each of these areas a score of 0, 1 or 2. This is what will be used to put together a potential project list. The city engineer will then be able to put together a rough estimate of the cost of each of the potential projects.

2(B) OTHER.

- City Engineer Amborn reminded council that improvement projects are not just streets. There will a pedestrian crossing project in 2025 and the Ashmore Trail project in 2026.
- City Engineer Amborn provided an update on the Ashmore issue. Duinincks will be adding an additional crown which will help with the ride quality. This will happen the end of August.
- City Manager Wolfington would like the next worksession to discuss facility items. He would like to have Council tour all the city facilities and see what condition they are in.
- The last Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2013. A new one needs to be completed which would include projects like housing and other expansion ideas.
- Utilities Superintendent Gallagher would like to get Internet at the water and wastewater plants at a minimum. Getting notification systems installed at the wells and lift stations would be very beneficial also. The SCADA system is close to the end of its useful life and options need to be explored. The county currently has a fiber installation project happening in rural areas which may benefit the cost estimates. After discussion, Gallagher will contact the company and get estimates to provide fiber to the premises.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

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Tami Schuelke-Sampson, Secretary

Approved by council July 8, 2024:

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President - City Council