January 29, 2018

Special meeting of the City Council of the City of Two Harbors, Minnesota, held on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Erickson.

Members present, Councilors: Glaser, McQuade, Norberg, Swanson, Jussila, Erickson, 6.

Members absent, Councilor: Woodruff, 1.

Others present: Administrator Walker
Finance Director Pietila

Vice President Erickson announced that the purpose of the special meeting was to conduct a public hearing regarding the 2018 Street and Alley Improvement Project and to consider approving the Feasibility Report, approving and ordering the 2018 Street and Alley Improvement Project and declaring first reading of an ordinance amending the City Code, Chapter 2, by repealing Sections 2.75 and 2.77, Wage Rates and Hours for City Projects and Project Labor Agreements.

Motion by Swanson and McQuade Adjourning the special meeting and calling to order the public hearing regarding the 2018 Street and Alley Improvement Project. Carried.

Appearances:
Joe Rhein, Bolton & Menk, was present and addressed the hearing providing a presentation which included a background on the Proposed Street & Alley Improvement Project, an overview of what the project would entail, estimated costs, a review of the proposed assessment of costs for the project, property owner rights and a proposed schedule for the project.

At approximately 6:50 p.m., Council President Woodruff joined the meeting.

Mike Marksmier, 1539 Flood Bay Road, was present and spoke in behalf of his father, Duane Marksmier, of 712 Eighth Avenue, noting his concerns regarding sump pump run-off and that he believes that there is a spring in his driveway, which should be considered if pavement is to be installed.

Terry and Louise Johnson, 1302 8th Avenue, were present and spoke against the proposed assessment for 13th Street, noting that the street is used heavily by school busses and commercial truck traffic.
Dave Houle, 902 11th Avenue, was present and addressed the hearing speaking against the proposed assessment for 9th Street.

Uriah Heffer, 404 Third Avenue, was present and addressed the hearing asking about the width of his alley.

Todd Ronning, 130 South Avenue, was present and addressed the hearing, asking who determines which assessment type is set for each particular street or alley project and questioning the fairness of an assessment for South Avenue in light of heavy traffic over the past several years.

Joe Rhein addressed the concerns of Mr. Ronning noting that when considering assessment projects, variables such as those mentioned are taken into account, for each individual project.

Nadine Uremovich, 323 Third Avenue, was present and addressed the hearing, noting that she owned two properties proposed for assessments, and voicing her objection to the proposed improvement of their alley and noting her intention to assist each property owner on her block sign a written injunction and filing it with the City Clerk or the presiding officer at the assessment hearing if the Council does not remove their alley from the proposed project. She then asked that the Council to remove their alley from the list of those to be improved.

Tear Amesbury, 625 Eleventh Avenue, was present and addressed the hearing, noting that she has rental property on South Avenue, and encouraging the Council to review information with regard to household income when considering the proposed projects.

Michelle Ronning, PO Box 176, Knife River, was present and addressed the hearing indicating that she owns rental property with the proposed project area and speaking against the proposed assessments. She asked if there were other options for sharing the costs associated with the project.

Curt Anderson, 427 Second Avenue, was present and addressed the hearing speaking against the proposed assessment for the improvement of his alley.

Rich Sve, 3648, Highway 61, was present and addressed the hearing asking if property owners would be allowed to upgrade their system to their home at the time of connection to the new lateral lines. Joe Rhein, indicated that this could be allowed if the contractor was willing. Sve also inquired if a commercial property would be assessed the same as a residential property. Mr. Rhein indicated that the City’s current assessment does not differentiate between residential and commercial properties.

There were no other individuals present who wished to speak in favor of against the proposed project.

There were no communications received regarding the proposed project.
Motion by Swanson and Jussila adjourning the public hearing and reconvening the special meeting. Carried.

Motion by Swanson and Erickson that RESOLUTION NO. 1-45-18 APPROVING THE FEASIBILITY REPORT FOR THE 2018 STREET AND ALLEY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT carried by a unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call.

Motion by Swanson and McQuade that RESOLUTION NO. 1-46-18 ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND DIRECTING PREPARATION OF FINAL PANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE 2018 STREET AND ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT be adopted as read. Carried by the following vote: Yea: McQuade, Norberg, Swanson, Jussila, Erickson, Woodruff. 6. Nays: Glaser. 1.

Motion by Swanson and McQuade that RESOLUTION NO. 1-47-18 ADDING OPTIONAL SIDEWALK TO THE 2018 STREET AND ALLEY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE EAST SIDE OF 9TH STREET FOR AN ESTIMATED COST OF $23,170 be adopted as read. Carried by the following vote: Yea: McQuade, Norberg, Swanson, Jussila, Erickson, Woodruff. 6. Abstain: Glaser. 1.

Motion by Swanson and McQuade that RESOLUTION NO. 1-48-18 INCLUDING OPTIONAL BITUMINOUS ALLEY PAVEMENT TO THE 2018 STREET AND ALLEY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT DESCRIBED IN THE FEASIBILITY REPORT, FOR A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF $81,650 be adopted as read. Carried by the following vote: Yea: McQuade, Norberg, Swanson, Jussila, Erickson, Woodruff. 6. Abstain: Glaser. 1.

Motion by Swanson and McQuade declaring first reading of an ordinance amending the City Code, Chapter 2, by repealing Sections 2.75 and 2.77, Wage Rates and Hours for City Projects and Project Labor Agreements. Carried.

Motion by Swanson and Glaser that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

Miles Woodruff, City Council President

Patricia D. Nordean, City Clerk