

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2004 AT 7:05 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

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Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Taylor, Flammini, DeTienne, Bennett and Mayor Harrison.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Commissioner Taylor stated there is a need to consider road maintenance throughout the city, but funding is not available for all projects. Brian Usher stated there is approximately a total of 1 mile of failed streets, which would cost \$700,000 to \$800,000 to reconstruct. Commissioner Taylor noted concerns regarding a section of Hebron Avenue located by the Hebron Townhomes, and recommended including this section of Hebron along with the 2004 project area. Mr. Usher stated it would cost \$50,000 to \$60,000 to repave this section of street. Mayor Harrison stated this section of Hebron Avenue is currently barricaded, but could be needed for emergency vehicles. The City previously approved barricading this street for security reasons. Commissioner Flammini stated the solution may be to vacate this street. Mr. Usher suggested narrowing the pavement along the section of the roadway, which is barricaded, allowing emergency vehicle access. The property owner could sign an agreement, whereby this roadway could only be used for emergency vehicles, and residents would continue to use the adjoining alleyways.

The Council agreed for Mr. Usher to obtain costs for the narrowing and paving of Hebron Avenue located by the Hebron Townhomes, as recommended.

Commissioner Taylor recommended barricading Ebenezer from 27th Street to 29th Street after the Cookie and Candy factories are demolished. Commissioner Flammini recommended constructing a berm or similar barricade, which would deter dumping unwanted materials in this area.

The Council agreed to barricade Ebenezer from 27th Street to 29th Street, as recommended.

Mr. Usher stated the 2004 road maintenance project area involves a total of 4.25 miles of streets. A block or two could be added or subtracted from the project area, depending on the bid amounts. The City would need \$1.2 million per year for four to five years in order to take care of the failed and failing streets. Commissioner Bennett noted in order to improve the roads, the City needs other sources of revenue. Mr. Usher suggested considering a special assessment as an alternate means for funding some of the projects. Commissioner Bennett noted the City could assess a ½ cent sales tax for infrastructure purposes through passage of a referendum. This extra sales tax would raise up to \$750,000 each year. Mr. Usher stated he could put together a plan regarding what streets could be included. Attorney Puma stated he will check into language requirements for the question, which would have to be placed on a ballot. Commissioner Flammini stated the referendum would need to show that these funds would be used for street improvements only.

Commissioner Taylor recommended and the Council agreed for staff to obtain costs and projections for the 2004 road maintenance project, Attorney Puma to research required language for a referendum, and to discuss this issue further after budget hearings.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Flammini that the Council recess to Closed Session at 7:54 p.m. to discuss purchase of real estate and personnel. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Bennett, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 8:30 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Flammini, aye; DeTienne, aye; Bennett, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk