

**MINUTES OF THE BEATRICE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION**

A work session of the Beatrice City Council was held on the 24th day of March, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sargent Room, Beatrice Public Library, 100 North 16th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Attending: Mayor Schuster, Councilmembers: Carey, Catlin, Clabaugh, Fairbanks, Kerr, Langdale, and Parde.

Absent: Councilmember Cook.

Mayor Schuster announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is available in the meeting room and is accessible to members of the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve agenda as submitted.
- b. Receive and place on file all notices pertaining to this meeting
- c. Receive and place on file all materials having any bearing on this meeting.

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Carey, that the items listed under the consent agenda be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented.

Roll Call: Yea: Carey, Catlin, Clabaugh, Fairbanks, Kerr, Langdale, and Parde.

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proposed Local Option Sales Tax

There were no comments on the proposed Local Option Sales Tax.

Review of the 2nd Street Project from Court Street to Ella Street

City Administrator Tobias Tempelmeyer explained that the environmental review has been completed for the grant funded project. Should the scope in anyway change the review would need to be completed again. The Nebraska Department of Roads (“NDOR”) has stated that the grant is an 80/20 match which has no set limit regarding the project cost. With a remaining estimated cost of \$750,000, the local match would be \$150,000. This local match would be split between the City \$122,000 and the Gage County Historical Society covering \$28,000. NDOR is now willing at no cost to be the Responsible Charge (“RC”) for the project. City Engineer James Burroughs stated that we are now at final design, but if the City would cover the design it would take an extensive amount of time. NDOR has offered to take over final design with the City covering 20% of the cost. The estimated cost to just concrete over 2nd Street from Court to Ella would be ~\$376,000. Councilmember Fairbanks wondered if the project or roadway could be narrowed. This would change the scope and be cause for a new environmental review. Scott Knispel from the Historical Society thought they could contribute more than \$28k with proper approval. Scott also discussed at what point the Historical Society should contact BNSF who owns the property which the museum sits on. The Mayor asked if the Council was comfortable

moving forward and no objection was stated. The City will continue on the project and work with NDOR to establish the RC and engineering.

Traffic Committee Report

i. Parking in the 100 Block of South 16th Street

City Attorney Greg Butcher explained the congestion that occurs on South 16th Street near Court Street. Parking is permitted on both sides of the street near the intersection and this can cause traffic disturbances. The Traffic Committee recommended removing parking back a distance of 101 feet. This recommendation comes after a time of temporary “No Parking” in the area to gauge community concern. The City was contacted by a neighbor who recommended the 101 foot zone, which was smaller than the temporary zone previously established. Councilmember Parde asked if the area could be reduced even further. The Committee feels the 101 feet is sufficient and still allows access for neighbors to park.

ii. Closing Scott Street Between Center Street and Bluff Street During Baseball Season

City Attorney Greg Butcher gave the Traffic Committee’s recommendation to close Scott Street, between Center and Bluff, during all baseball related events throughout the spring and summer. There was no objection.

iii. Stop Signs at 3rd and Marlborough

Councilmember Carey had requested the Traffic Committee review the stop signs located that the “T” intersection of Marlborough and 3rd Street. The Traffic Committee recommended leaving the signs as is due to site restrictions caused by trees located in the right-of-way and a house located on the northeast corner of the intersection. A potential solution would be to remove the trees in the future.

iv. Two (2) Hour Parking in the 1300 Block of North 7th Street and the 1400 and 1500 Block of North 8th Street

City Attorney Butcher explained that there remains two-hour parking in residential areas near the old Husqvarna building which is not used for major manufacturing anymore. The restriction was put into place to keep workers from parking on the residential streets. The Traffic Committee recommended removing these restrictions for the benefit of the residents. There were no objections.

v. Parking Along the North Side of Market Street Between 4th Street and 5th Street

City Attorney Butcher and City Engineer Burroughs presented information regarding the difficulty entering Market Street from the north along 5th Street. A site restriction is caused by the cars parked along the north side of Market Street. Burroughs provided maps with the appropriate sight triangles places upon them. The Council discussed the businesses who frequently park there and what other options for parking existed. The Traffic Committee had no formal recommendation regarding the number of parking stalls that should be removed.

