

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS MN
ANOKA COUNTY

Work Session Notes
June 13, 2017

Mayor Feldman opened the Work Session for the Riverbank Lane/Kings Hwy Street Improvement at 6:00 pm. Also present were Council members Jerry Tveit, Joe Muehlbauer, Rich Skordahl and Robert Bauer arriving at 7:04 pm, City Administrator Joe Kohlmann, Public Works Director Paul Teicher and City Engineer Craig Jochum.

Kohlmann opened the meeting by giving a power presentation that included; 1) Historical Timeline, 2) City Maintenance, 3) Assessment Policy, 4) Project Overview and 5) Next Steps. (Power point included as part of the notes)

Jochum said the main issue in this development is reclaiming the ditches because there is no ditch back slope that allows a direct flow.

Feldman stated there are two grants the city is going to apply for to see if we can get money to help with the cost of this improvement. Not sure if we will get anything or and if we do, what amount it would be. For us to apply for the grant we have to go ahead with a feasibility study. To show you good faith, the city will pay for the cost of the study. If we receive any funding, we would not get it until 2018. In the meantime, I thought about some temporary fixes we could do. This area has had problems for many years and we want to fix it right.

The temporary fix would include cleaning out the culverts by pressure washing them clean. After we clean them it would be your responsibility to keep them clean. Then we would use a backhoe to dig a trench to help with drainage. We don't want to assess you now for a project and find out in 2018 we received some money. So that is why for the temporary fix this year. We are listening; we are a new council that is open, transparent and accountable.

Mike Blood, 24411 Riverbank Lane asked what does temporary work with culverts mean. Feldman said we would get a company to come out to pressure wash the debris out of the culverts and make a trench in the ditch for better drainage but understand this is just temporary. Blood said some of the culvert may be buried.

Aaron Simonson, 24430 River Bank Lane and Christine Wright, 2419 Kings Hwy are property owners at the intersection of Kings Hwy and Riverbank Lane. They had concerns of people cutting the corner short and coming on to their property.

Jennifer Skarsten, 24373 Riverbank Lane said I had called the city about putting up a berm because we do not have a culvert. Jochum said if we get the property owners permission on this project and be able to come on your property to that would help us also.

Skordahl said before we say what we are doing, the first step is to do a feasibility study then we can better decide what the temporary fix will be.

Feldman said the feasibility study is important but we need to work together. How much we get from the grant will dictate the assessment amount.

Sean, Riverbank Lane said he works in road and bridge construction. Routine maintenance has been neglected. No matter what is done, maintenance has to be kept up whether it is paved or not. Catch basins still need to be cleaned by city; shoulders need to be continually maintained. I don't think property owner should be cleaning the catch basins. Feldman agreed with the property owners not cleaning the catch basin. But if you see leaves or debris in the ditch, clean it up.

Mike Minkler, 24311 Riverbank Lane stated I was a new resident in 1995 when the street improvement was discussed. That time there was not a majority of people that wanted to have the project done. Who made decision for this improvement now? Why are we here was it a resident initiative. We have made a rain garden so the water has somewhere to go. Several years ago there was a proposal for a development to the west of us that going in until the recession hit. Do you have any idea of when utilities (water & sewer) will go in? I would think you would want those in before you did any paving.

Feldman said we have decided that this problem isn't going away. After we talked to some residents who were concerned with the drainage and condition of the intersections we looked at how this could be corrected.

James Roppe, 24235 Riverbank Lane asked what are we paying the \$60 fee for. Feldman stated what the regulations that the City now has to follow. The culvert cleaning and trench work cost would come from the Stormwater fund. The \$60 you pay goes directly into that fund. Roppe asked who here wants it paved. Several hands were raised.

Resident, 24343 Riverbank Lane asked why do some houses have a ditch and some not. Jochum said if done today, the road would have been done differently. The development went in around 1964.

Randy Fields, 24320 Riverbank Lane said he is not pointing fingers but this town never has given this area any attention unless we call. Been here since 1989 and we have to call for it to be graded and snow removal has been a problem, been frustrating. What about just fixing Kings Hwy and leave Riverbank Lane dirt? Fields asked can you just put curb on one side to cut cost. Feldman stated we have to do a feasibility study first to know what we can do.

Jochum there seems to be a drainage problem with the properties on the south side of Riverbank Lane. Maybe an additional culvert can put in draining the water to the river.

Jennifer Skarsten, 24373 Riverbank Lane asked about the calcium chloride that is put on the gravel, is that detrimental to the river?

Minkler, stated you should know the chemicals you put on your streets, chloride is salt and it runs right down to the river. That is why we didn't have it put on by our home.

Skordahl said with the new regulations the City is required to monitor the Stormwater and gather the data to find a solution. We have to be responsible and that is another area where the storm water fees will be used.

Question was asked when the feasibility study will be complete. Jochum said somewhere around September/October. Minkler said I thought you needed that for the grant application.

Discussion was held on how the 1995 Improvement was handled and that they didn't want to pay the assessment at that time. Residents also said they were told not to come back for at least 10 years to request an improvement.

Feldman said when we do the study and if the City does not get any grant money you will not be assessed for the study.

Resident, 3530 Kings Hwy asked if the street is paved will we be required to pave our driveways. I just recently moved out here and wouldn't have the funds to do that.

Blaine Wright, 3419 Kings Hwy asked if the City ever found the map of the original drainage. Jochum said no, we did not.

Discussed the time frame of the temporary fix, will it include correcting the intersections so cars don't drive through the property owners yards, placement of stop signs at the intersection and maybe a bigger culvert needs to be put in to the river.

Fields said he wanted to thank the council, appreciate listening to us. Feldman stated you are asking good questions.

Skordahl asked how many property owners were present. Of the 23+ residents in the audience around 17 households were represented. There are 34 units in the whole development that would be effected. Skordahl said make sure your neighbors that were not here know what is going on. Jochum said again if the property owners work with the City and let them on their property it will help.

Resident, 24310 Riverbank Lane asked how are you going to inform us on what is going on, mailings, website or how. Jochum said when it gets to a point of an assessment hearing by statute; you will be notified by certified mail.

Tveit explained how grant applications are scored. No guarantee we will get a grant because we will not be the only city applying.

Feldman stated we have a new planner. Muehlbauer said Sambatek our new planners are good at grant writing. Feldman said we are conservative but want to do this the right

way.

Skordahl said I am not advocating putting in utilities in your area but I think we really need to address it. I don't want to come back 10-15 years and rip up everything to put in water and sewer.

Residents asked can you put the pipe in now and it not be in use for years will it work? Jochum said we will work with staff and look at all options.

Feldman thanked the resident for coming to the work session.

General consensus of the City Council was to direct staff to prepare an agenda report requesting a feasibility study for the Riverbank Lane/Kings Hwy Street Improvement.

The work session adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Barbara I. Held, City Clerk