

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL

**BLUE GRASS, IOWA**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

The Blue Grass City Council met in special session, as a Committee of the Whole at 7:00 p.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024, at the Blue Grass Community Center, 232 E. Orphed Street, Blue Grass, Iowa, pursuant to law, with Mayor Brad Schutte presiding. A pledge of allegiance and a moment of reflection were recognized. The following Council members present: Mike Hermann; Tim Brandenburg; Schuyler Bowman and Robert Blok. Absent was member Tim Rhoades. Others present: Police Chief Mike Meier, Fire Chief Brian Seamer, City Engineer Mike Janecek, Public Works Director Jim Meyrer and City Clerk/Financial Officer Ann Schmidt; Aero Concrete representatives Chris Jepsen and Brady Grell and Needham Excavating representative Nick Needham were also in attendance.

**MAYORAL COMMENTS:** Mayor Schutte announced the Mayoral Comments.

Mayor Schutte commented to the audience that the topic of discussion was intended for discussion only and that no action would be taken as this meeting was a “Committee of the Whole” session only.

The Mayor presented the topic to be open for discussion and opened the meeting.

**Lamphere Drive Reconstruction Project:** Mayor Schutte opened the meeting for discussion asking that everyone fill out the contact form prepared by the City Clerk and give the City their name, address, phone number and email address so that the City can keep everyone up-to-date on the project timeline or of any disruptions in services as he felt that was a vital part of this project by keeping residents well informed. He said that is why he had Fire, Police, Public Works staff on hand to answer any questions or concerns. Chris Jepsen, owner/operator Aero Concrete thanked the Mayor, Council and staff for their cooperation in this project as he and Needham Excavating will work diligently to ensure that the Lamphere Drive Reconstruction Project will go as smoothly as possible without any miscommunication issues passing out business contact cards asking that residents contact him directly or during construction; however, asked that residents keep a safe distance at all times for safety reasons. Mr. Jepsen proceeded to give a brief description of the project timeline as they project to start the first part of March with a completion date of September 30, 2024 reassuring residents that they plan on keeping at least one-lane of traffic open during construction. Drainage issues were also discussed along with replacing of fire hydrants and adding one fire hydrant. Mr. Jepsen added that while Aero Concrete and Needham Excavating are working, Iowa American Water Company would be installing a new water main at the same time so there may be a disruption in service from time to time. He said that he is currently working with the Post Office for mail services as mailboxes will have to be taken down and once the project is complete, they will be reinstalled; however, in the meantime residents will have to go to the Post Office for mail services and as far as garbage/recycling services, they are currently working with Republic Services so that residents are not inconvenienced asking that residents either write their name or address on their carts to ensure they receive the same cart after pickup. Residents expressed concerns on the elderly and handicapped residents having access at all times at which time Mr. Jepsen reassured residents that they would keep Police, Fire and EMS up-to-date on the construction so that if and/or when emergency services are needed, they will have full access. Mayor Schutte reported that the total project costs awarded totaled \$889,960.00 with the City’s portion totaling \$676,951.50 commenting that the monies would come from the Local Option Sales Tax Reserve and not from property tax revenues. Mayor Schutte asked for further comments and/or discussion, since there were no other comments, the Mayor adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Attest: Ann M. Schmidt, CMC, City Clerk/Financial Officer