

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL

BLUE GRASS, IOWA

OCTOBER 17, 2017

The Blue Grass City Council met in special session, as a Committee of the Whole at 6:30 p.m. on the 17th day of October, 2017, at the Public Safety Building, 606 W. Mayne Street, pursuant to law, with Mayor Timothy Brandenburg presiding. A pledge of allegiance and a moment of reflection were recognized. The following Council members present: Chuck Barton, Lisa Smith, Bonnie Strong, James Goodin and Brad Schutte. City Attorney William McCullough, City Engineer Mike Janecek and Public Works Director Lonnie Robertson were also in attendance.

MAYORAL COMMENTS: Mayor Brandenburg announced the following: “Welcome to your Blue Grass Committee of the Whole meeting. If you are not a member of the Fire, Ambulance, or Police Department, please turn off or silence your cell phones, pagers, etc. It is your right to be heard; however, please ask to be recognized by the Mayor. After being recognized, please stand and state your name and address. In an effort to keep the meeting on task, please limit your comments or concerns to several minutes. Please have the courtesy to allow the person speaking to finish uninterrupted. Thank you”.

Mayor Brandenburg commented to the audience that the topics to be discussed at this meeting were 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 topics to be open for discussion and opened the meeting.

- 1. Informational Discussion & Review - Project Details: North Mississippi Street Rehabilitation Project/Temporary Construction Easement Agreement:** City Engineer Mike Janecek reported that the City of Blue Grass was awarded grant monies totaling \$694,343.00 through the Region 9 Federal “Surface Transportation Program” (STP) to totally rehabilitate the North Mississippi Street corridor with a new concrete street from Mayne Street to Laretta Street to include curbs, gutters and storm sewers. He gave a more in-depth description of the project and timeline of events reporting that there may be a period of time where residents would not have access to their property; however, that that information would be conveyed to them by the Contractor. Janecek said that there may also be a delay in mail service, garbage service, etc.; however, those services will be coordinated with the Contractor. He reported that the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) had set the earliest bid letting date of January 17, 2018 and that he projects that construction will begin March and be done by November 2018, weather permitting reiterating that the intent of the project was to stay within the right-of way (ROW). McCullough referenced the “Transportation Alternatives Program” (TAP) grant that was also awarded to the City that covers 80 percent of the project costs to construct all new 5 foot sidewalks within the corridor with the City matching the remaining 20 percent; however, the Council, at their October 12, 2017 Special meeting agreed to waive the assessment in lieu of homeowners signing both a Temporary Construction Easement Agreement and sign the Waiver and Donation Agreement which states that the homeowner acknowledges the fact that they are entitled to compensation based upon an approved appraisal and agree to donate their portion of the ROW. He said that the Council had set two public meetings to discuss the project details and timeline of events so that all residents are fully aware of the possible inconveniences that will impact their daily routine as the City is under a stringent timeline and must have all 47 Agreements signed and mailed to the IDOT by October 25, 2017. Residents questioned whether their personal property such as fences, retaining walls, etc. would be damaged by the project. Janecek reported that the intent of the project was to stay within the ROW; however, there are certain properties where personal items will have to be removed and referenced an exhibit that he had that

displayed what items are projected to be removed as those residents will either be fully compensated and/or the items and/or landscaping will be restored back to its original condition. Further discussion was held on the project details and possible delays. Mayor Brandenburg asked that residents stop and speak individually with either the City Attorney or City Engineer after the meeting.

Other Business: There was none.

Mayor Brandenburg asked for further comments and/or discussion, since there were no other comments, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

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