

**OSSEO CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
April 24, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Duane Poppe called the work session of the Osseo City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilmembers Juliana Hultstrom, Harold E. Johnson, Mark Schulz, Alicia Vickerman, and Mayor Duane Poppe.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Administrator Riley Grams, Public Works Director Nick Waldbillig, Alyson Fauske, WSB & Associates; and Financial Consultant Gary Groen.

Others present: Preston Kroska, City Resident.

3. AGENDA

Council agreed to discuss the work session items.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. CENTRAL AVENUE PAVER CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Alyson Fauske, WSB & Associates, stated that over the years the condition of the pavers along Central Avenue have deteriorated. Public Works has replaced a couple panels and the condition is in a state that Staff requests Council direction regarding a more wholistic approach to replace the damaged pavers. A project-based approach would also provide an opportunity to address the boulevard trees along Central Avenue. Last fall Waldbillig and Fauske walked the corridor with a tree expert who indicated that about six trees are dying or dead, and another six have reached maturity. If the Council wants include a tree replacement plan for the Central Avenue corridor this can be discussed at a future work session. Recommended budget amounts to replace the pavers on both sides of the street are as follows:

1st Street to 2nd Street:	\$ 371,000
2nd Street to 3rd Street:	\$ 344,000
3rd Street to 4th Street:	\$ 372,000
Total:	\$1,087,000

Ms. Fauske explained funding for the proposed improvements would be from the Street Maintenance, Sidewalk Maintenance and Mill and Overlay budget, which is currently \$775,000 for 2024. Individual property assessments are not anticipated for this work.

Hultstrom suggested the bump out be removed outside of Premier Bank. She asked if the salt and snow sitting on the bump out had caused it to deteriorate so quickly. Waldbillig reported snow is no longer stored in piles along Central Avenue. He requested the Council keep the bump out in place for snow maintenance purposes. Grams agreed the bump out should remain. He reported if this were removed, the cost for the project would increase because the concrete curb would have to be removed and more asphalt would have to be brought in.

Vickerman asked how Staff felt the paver panels surrounding the concrete was holding up. Waldbillig believed the paver panels were fine, but temporary. He discussed how the different materials expanded and contracted differently. He stated he would not want to continue this practice going forward.

Schulz questioned if this project had a 15-year assessment period. Grams stated this project had a 20-year assessment period.

Schulz noted the project still had seven more years and noted he fielded a lot of questions, especially from Duffy's. He reported Duffy's would like their panel replaced sooner rather than later. He discussed how Central Avenue used to be hand shoveled and now equipment is used for snow removal. He asked if the work that was done in 2020 was paid for through street fees. Grams explained the Steeple Point block was paid for by assessments on a 50/50 basis with the City. He indicated the City Hall block was paid for by the City.

Schulz stated he understood this would be an expensive project but he knew some of the areas needed to be addressed. He questioned if the City had the funding in place to complete this project in 2024. He indicated he did not want the City to assess for this project. Groen explained the pavement management fund had \$1 million. He reported in 2023 to 2026 about \$409,000 would be used for street maintenance and pothole filling. He noted \$300,000 was set aside for mill and overlay projects. He explained the City would have to repurpose this funding if the Central Avenue pavers were replaced.

Schulz questioned if the heaviest foot traffic areas should be addressed first. He suggested, for budgetary purposes, that 4<sup>th</sup> Street South to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street be addressed first, along with the area on the corner near Holiday. He stated he wished the City didn't have to wait to complete this project until 2024.

Vickerman agreed also noting there were several areas that were trip and fall hazards. Grams suggested the bank corner be addressed in-house. He noted the larger block replacements would then be completed in 2024 when staff can prepare plans and specs and receive bids for the project. He asked if the Council wanted to address these three blocks in 2024 and if Staff should prepare the necessary documentation for this project.

Hultstrom believed this project was necessary.

Schulz stated he had confidence in the public works crews expertise in implementing the difference aspects to ensure the City didn't have to rip this work out in a couple of years. He anticipated some of the areas would not make it until next year and in those areas, he hoped Staff could address those situations.

Ms. Fauske stated if the bad areas were addressed by Staff this year, these would be temporary fixes that would be replaced when those blocks are reconstructed. She discussed how difficult it would be to match the decorative concrete panels.

Vickerman agreed it would be difficult to match the panels.

Johnson reported he walked Central Avenue last year and noted the pavers were in even worse condition this spring. He supported the Public Works crew working to improve the situation for this summer. In addition, he supported the City replacing all pavers along Central Avenue, putting out bids and completing this project in 2024.

Schulz indicated this would be an expensive and disruptive project for the businesses along Central Avenue. He stated he could not support all pavers being replaced in 2024.

Poppe concurred noting the City was still paying for this project.

Schulz understood the pavers would continue to break down over time but the City would have to work to replace these pavers.

Johnson indicated the City may have to consider bonding for this project. Grams stated this was something he and Groen would review and present to the Council at a future meeting.

Hultstrom encouraged Staff to pursue grant funding for this project.

#### B. FUTURE STREET AND ALLEY PROJECTS – Alyson Fauske, WSB & Associates

Alyson Fauske, WSB & Associates, reported on May 9, 2022, the Council authorized WSB to perform the design and bidding/assessment phase associated with the proposed “2023 Street Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project” which includes the following:

- 1) Removal and replacement of the pavement in the following streets
  - 8th Avenue NE
  - 9th Avenue NE, 3rd Street NE (from 7th Avenue NE to 9th Avenue NE)
  - 1st Street NE (from 8th Avenue NE to 9th Avenue NE), and
  - Broadway Street East (from 7th Avenue NE to the eastern terminus)
  - North Oaks Drive
  - 1 ½ Street NE 2)
- 2) Mill and overlay of the following streets
  - CR 81 Frontage Road (from 1st Avenue SE to 4th Street SE)
  - 1st St NW

Ms. Fauske reported at the June 27, 2022, work session the Council directed WSB to include an option to install sidewalks in the 8th Avenue NE / 9th Avenue NE / 1st Street NE / Broadway Street East area of the project. The preliminary design was completed and included the optional sidewalk along with the proposed street improvements and was presented at the August 3, 2022, neighborhood meeting for the residential portion of the project.

Ms. Fauske explained the feasibility study was presented at the September 12, 2022, Council meeting and received for the record via Resolution 2022-51. The resolution noted that "City Council agreed that sidewalks should not be included in this future Street Reconstruction Project" and the project was postponed. Funding for this project included bonds and the City's financial consultant Ehlers indicates that at least 85% of the bond funds have to be spent by within 3 years August 11, 2025, therefore Staff recommends a discussion to determine the Council's desire to complete the Street Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project. The next steps for the project were reviewed with the Council and Staff requested direction on how to proceed.

Johnson questioned when 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues were installed. Ms. Fauske stated she was uncertain. She noted she was aware that that alligator cracking was visible on both streets, which was why she was recommending they be replaced.

Johnson asked when a mill and overlay project was generally completed on a street. Ms. Fauske reported this was typically done around year 8 to 10, with another mill and overlay in 8 to 10 years. She explained she does not know the history of these streets and if they were properly maintained. She stated streets are typically fully replaced at 30 years.

Grams explained all of the homes in this neighborhood were built in 1974 or 1975, which means the streets were installed around this timeframe. Ms. Fauske stated if the City got 40+ years out of this pavement, this was a good life.

Johnson reported 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW was used by one property owner and some residents believe this street should be assessed to the one property owner versus being split with the City.

Hultstrom stated on Saturday she could not drive through 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW because it was blocked by boats. She agreed this roadway was not useable but rather was being filled up by the adjacent business. She supported this business being assessed for any and all work done on 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW.

Schulz did not believe the City could "spot assess" in this manner. He recommended this street be removed from the proposed street project. He recommended the area on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue that serves as a driveway also be removed from the street project. He noted he had to get up to speed on this project and would be speaking with Staff further. He commented on how important it was to build better streets.

Waldbillig reported it was his recommendation to do a full reconstruct on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues. He reported the water wasn't draining properly on these streets and noted the curbs were sinking.

Vickerman supported 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW being removed from the street improvement project. She asked if 1½ Street could be vacated. Ms. Fauske reported 1½ Street could be vacated if the property owners were in agreement. She noted last fall she has spoken to the Vet Clinic about what type of project they would support.

Hultstrom commented on how the drainage on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue would have to be addressed because there was an area where water pooled on the street.

Schulz recommended the City have conversations with Three River Parks to see if a trail could be completed along the 81 Service Road. He stated it was his understanding Three Rivers Park would pay for a trail and the City would have to maintain it. Grams stated it was his understanding Three Rivers Park was waiting to see what the final design plans were for 81.

Schulz indicated the service road was in very bad condition and he understood it needed attention. However, he also wanted to keep in mind this area would be addressed by the County in the future. Waldbillig reported the service road was slated for a mill and overlay with a higher crown to buy the City a few more years until the County project came through. Grams indicated he speaks with the County often and it was his understanding the County has not secured funding for the Osseo project. He estimated this project was at least seven years out.

Johnson questioned where the water was going from the service road. Waldbillig reported the water in this area flows south towards through a stormwater drainage.

Johnson indicated he supported this project moving forward in 2024, without 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW and possibly vacating 1½ Street. The Council was in agreement.

Ms. Fauske thanked the Council for their feedback and noted she would bring further action to the May 22, 2023, Council meeting.

Ms. Fauske commented on the history of the 2023 Street Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project noting the streets that were included within the project area. She stated the “2022 – 2023 Capital Improvement Planning, Individual Project Area Map” dated March 18, 2021, includes proposed future projects for eight alleys within the City. It was noted the last large-scale mill and overlay project was performed in 2015 and some of these roads, and others within the City may benefit from a pavement improvement project. A Pavement Condition Report can assist Council and Staff to identify and prioritize street improvement projects. The first step in establishing the report is inspection of the pavement to determine the Pavement Condition Index (PCI), which is a score between 100 (a brand new street) and 0 (a completely deteriorated street). The PCIs are summarized in a report that also includes a Capital Improvement Plan. The recommended budget for this report is \$6,500. If the Council wants to proceed with the report a proposal will be brought to a future meeting

Schulz stated he supported the study being completed with the caveat a plan should be in place for the future on when streets should be reviewed.

Poppe agreed the study should be completed noting the last time this was completed was in 2012.

Johnson asked if only certain streets would be reviewed. Ms. Fauske explained the study would be completed on the condition of all City streets.

Poppe recommended the utilities under each street also be considered within this study. Ms. Fauske discussed how this task could be completed in tandem with this report.

Johnson asked if the lead pipe services could be investigated. Ms. Fauske reported the State had legislation being considered that would require the City's to complete an inventory on lead pipe services. She noted she has spoken with Waldbillig regarding this matter and she was prepared to bring forward some expertise to ensure the City was compliant with the State.

Vickerman stated she was concerned about the overlap of services, given the fact Staff had a general idea on the condition of the streets. Ms. Fauske stated Staff may have a list of streets in mind for replacement or reconstruction. She commented further on the additional information would be gained from the pavement condition report.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther  
*Minute Maker Secretarial*