

**OSSEO CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 25, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Larry Stelmach called the work session of the Osseo City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilmembers Juliana Hultstrom, Harold E. Johnson, Larry Stelmach, and Alicia Vickerman.

Members absent: Mayor Duane Poppe.

Staff present: City Administrator Riley Grams, Financial Consultant Gary Groen, Public Works Director Nick Waldbillig, and Lee Gustafson, City Engineer (WSB & Associates).

3. AGENDA

Council agreed to discuss the work session items.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2022 STREETS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Lee Gustafson, WSB & Associates, stated eight residential alleys are proposed to be reconstructed in 2022. As a part of Council's discussions on this project last spring, staff did a survey of all city alleys and ranked them according to condition. The results of the survey confirmed the need to reconstruct the eight alleys in 2022 as proposed. The remaining seven bituminous alleys were determined to be in sufficient shape to last another couple of years. Staff suggested that these seven bituminous alleys could possibly be reconstructed in 2024 along with two commercial alleys on the west side of Central Avenue. Originally the two commercial alleys were proposed to be reconstructed in 2021.

Mr. Gustafson explained the 2023 street reconstruction project proposes to reconstruct several streets on the east side of the City: 8th and 9th Avenues NE, Broadway Street NE, 3rd Street NE and North Oaks Drive. At the CIP discussion last year, Staff mentioned that they would look into the possibility of vacating North Oaks Drive due to it serving just the apartment complex area. After reviewing this issue more closely, Staff has determined that this is not feasible due to the current property ownership configuration. North Oaks Drive is in very bad condition and is therefore included as a part of the proposed 2023 street reconstruction project.

Mr. Gustafson reported Council will note that the 2023 project includes reconstructing the 9th Avenue NE stub up to the cemetery. This section of street is vital for cemetery

access, but that is essentially it's only purpose. Staff will likely look at the City's assessment policy, if this project proceeds, to determine if the cemetery should be assessed for this project, and if the corner house should not receive a ½ unit assessment for this stub street.

Mr. Gustafson stated it is also being recommended that the northeast CR 81 frontage road be milled and overlaid as a part of the proposed 2023 street reconstruction project. There may also be a couple of small blocks that may need to be milled and overlaid as a part of this 2023 project - similar to the short blocks that were rehabilitated just east of Central Avenue a few years ago. 1 ½ Street NE, on the south side of Holiday Gas Station is one of those short blocks that will be considered for a mill and overlay. In the case of this street, Staff will also be looking at the feasibility of vacating this street due to it just serving these commercial properties.

Mr. Gustafson commented further on the other projects being considered for the City. As Council is aware, right-of-way acquisition was needed for some of the alleys in the 2022 Alley Reconstruction Project because right-of-way was not properly established when the alleys were originally platted/constructed. This same issue has been encountered on past alley and street reconstruction projects. Since right of way acquisition can take up to 12 months, Staff is recommending that any right of way acquisition needed for the 2023 and 2024 alley and street reconstruction projects be acquired beginning in 2022 to eliminate any potential project delays when it comes time to construct these projects. Staff commented further on the projects planned for 2022, 2023 and 2024 and requested feedback from the Council.

Hultstrom asked if 1½ Street was next to Holiday. Mr. Gustafson reported this was the case.

Vickerman questioned what would happen to a street if it were vacated. Mr. Gustafson explained this land would revert back to the original property owner.

Johnson asked what would happen to the intersection area between Osseo Meats and Perkins. Mr. Gustafson reported he spoke with Hennepin County and he understood the County has this area on their radar, but was not proposing to put this section of Highway 81 in their CIP. He anticipated the County would not put this section of the Highway 81 service road in their CIP for another 10 years. He reported something would have to be done to this service road in 2023 because it was in really poor condition. He proposed a mill and overlay be completed in 2023.

Mr. Gustafson asked if the Council supported the projects proposed for 2023. The Council offered their support for the projects proposed for 2023.

Mr. Gustafson discussed a right-of-way acquisition that was necessary for the 2022 alleyway project. He indicated Staff would like authorization to begin looking at the 2023 and 2024 projects to see what parcels may have right-of-way conflicts.

Stelmach asked if having right-of-way acquisition information in place authorized the City to proceed with an improvement project. Mr. Gustafson stated this was not the case, but rather noted having the right-of-way acquisition information in place helps moves projects along, if they were approved by the City Council.

Vickerman supported the City looking at the right-of-way conflicts proactively.

Hultstrom agreed stating the sooner the City looked into these issues the better.

Mr. Gustafson stated some of the streets that were previously milled and overlayed were in need of maintenance. He recommended Staff inspect these streets in 2023 and noted some of them may need to be reconstructed. He discussed how Allison, WSB & Associates, would be providing the Council with updates on the health of the City's infrastructure while also detailing the maintenance needs going forward.

Vickerman asked if there were any streets that were experiencing problems from the 2015 mill and overlay. Waldbillig stated Broadway Avenue was a concern at this time as it was raising up or creating speed bumps.

Johnson inquired if it was feasible to put the power lines underground along Central Avenue. He stated the business owners would like to see the lines buried along the alley. Mr. Gustafson reported there was discussion about burying the power lines within the commercial alleys. He indicated conversations have been held with Xcel Energy and Staff learned the expense would be extremely high and transformers would need to be installed on private property. After learning this, Staff did not pursue the project further. He commented Staff could look at the 2024 alleys and could talk to Xcel Energy again about burying the power lines.

Johnson supported Staff looking into burying the power lines further and suggested this information be provided to the business owners to make them aware of the expense.

Vickerman anticipated if the lines were buried in the commercial areas, then there would be other areas of the City that would be making the same request. However, with that being said, she did support staff looking into the expense of burying the lines in conjunction with the 2024 alleyway project. She asked if the City would be required to bury line at some point in the future. Mr. Gustafson commented this would never be a requirement from Xcel Energy.

Vickerman questioned why power lines were buried. Mr. Gustafson stated this work was completed for various reasons, most pointing to aesthetics.

Hultstrom inquired if Staff had any problems with the power lines when plowing. Waldbillig reported staff used the smaller plows in the alleyways. He stated a change would make plowing easier, but he understood this came at a cost.

Johnson suggested no street construction be completed in 2025 because this was the City's 150-year anniversary.

Groen reviewed the 2021 through 2025 Street CIP with the Council. It was noted this was a living breathing document that could be amended as the Council makes and amends its plans going forward.

Grams encouraged the Council to contact him with any questions they may have regarding the CIP.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial