

**Carlton City Council**  
**PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT HEARING**  
**Monday, November 10th, 2014**

**Mayor Bureau called the hearing to order at 7:05pm.**

**Council Present:** Mayor Bureau, Mayor St. Germain, Councilmember Rodd, Davis, Vork and Theisen and Councilmember Gustafson, O'Brien and MacDonald

**Council Absent** – Councilor D. Coleman Lyng

**Others Present:** Clerk Hartung, PW Superintendent Wolf, Dep Clerk Conway

**The purpose of this hearing was to present the proposed School Avenue Project and to receive testimony from residents.**

Interim City Engineer Brian Miller, MSA Engineering presented the scope of the project based on the Feasibility Report. Mr. Miller explained the need for the repairs due to street conditions, inadequate infrastructure and the costs involved. Several options for levels of repair and costs associated were presented. Potential assessments were presented pending decisions of the council.

Mark Swanson, 605 Chestnut Avenue, indicated that 6<sup>th</sup> Street appears to be in good surface condition and the infrastructure is somewhat adequate and the costs associated with the improvements are a substantial amount that would greatly impact their family.

Angela Feters, 605 Chestnut Avenue, concurred that the financial impacts would be impossible to afford and would substantially increase their property taxes making the expenses to maintain living in the house unaffordable.

Nate Towslee, 441 Chestnut Street, asked for a specific amount of proposed assessment. Mr. Towslee inquired about the amount for Bethesda Lutheran Church also. Mr. Miller reviewed the proposed assessments for both properties. Mr. Towslee also stated that the project had been put off for too long and the increase in fire flows would improve the safety in the area.

Zack Hitchcock, 414 School Avenue, asked how larger cities handle improvements for example Cloquet or Duluth. Councilor W. Vork responded explaining policies for cities vary for example the City of Cloquet charges a flat 8% interest and a flat rate per foot for improvements. Mr. Miller identified variances in a variety of assessment policies and explained the options for financing using trunk funds for a portion of the project.

Mayor Bureau informed the group of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Assessment from a few years ago and the benefits outweigh the costs.

Mark Swanson, 605 Chestnut, again expressed his desire to exclude 6<sup>th</sup> Street from the project. Ms. Feters again asked for a reconsideration of the 6<sup>th</sup> Street portion as it would double their property taxes.

Councilor W. Vork asked about the rerouting of sanitary sewer and easements that would be needed. Mr. Miller clarified that the assessments would need to be fair and equitable.

Councilor Gustafson asked for a review of the street conditions table. B. Miller pointed out the 6<sup>th</sup> Street water main is undersized and should that portion of the project not be completed would cause a draw from other portions of the water main.

PW Superintendent Wolf also noted that because the project is large the city will have better leverage in securing greater economic scale for the project as opposed to completing each section separately.

Anne Towslee, 441 Chestnut Street, confirmed that the aging infrastructure is due to the lack of maintenance and that it has been let go for many years.

Mr. Miller outlined some of the maintenance tasks that can and should be done to maintain your system and streets thereby extending the life of the streets. Infrastructure can potentially last for 50+ years.

Mayor Bureau asked if there was any other testimony or final comments and thanked everyone for coming.

Angela Feters asked when the next meeting would be held and it was conveyed that the decision has not been made, however all meetings are public and the residents will be notified.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilor H. MacDonald and seconded by Councilor A. Gustafson to close the public improvement hearing, the time being 8:03pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Tracey Hartung  
Clerk/Treasurer