

Osakis City Council – Special Meeting
Ed Pollard Community Center
June 30, 2015
7:00 PM

Present: Kyle Kostrzewski, Jerry Olson, Kip Emerson, Jim Snyder arrived 7:15 p.m.
Absent: Randy Anderson,
Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Sheila Krohse, Mark

Meeting called to order by Mayor Kip Emerson at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Motion by Kostrzewski, seconded by Olson, to approve the agenda as presented. All Ayes Absent: Anderson, Snyder

Project #460: Downtown Project 2016

The purpose of the public hearing is to introduce the 2016 Downtown Project to the public and the property owners that will be affected and receive public comment.

Motion by Kostrzewski, seconded by Olson, to suspend the special meeting and open the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. All Ayes Absent: Anderson, Snyder

Mayor Emerson informed the public that anyone wishing to speak should raise their hand, state their name and address for the record.

Mayor Emerson turned the meeting over to Sheila Krohse from Bolten & Menk.

Krohse explained the project locations, design, costs and assessments:

- County participation from state aid funds for a portion of the project.
- Sidewalks will be widened from 8 ½ ft to 11 ft.
- Having a one-way will increase the driving lane to 12 ft with a 2 ft buffer.
- Parking will be at a 45 degree angle on both sides.
- A variance will be required for the one-way. The city will know in September if the variance from the state is approved.
- If the variance is denied, the street will remain a two-way with parallel parking on the west side and 45 degree parking on the east side.
- Main street will remain the same. Two-lane with diagonal and parallel parking.

The total cost of the project is at \$2,822,900.00. This amount includes contingency, admin fees, construction and engineer costs.

Funding will be received from PFA Funds, loans or grants at 1% to 1.5% for up to 30 years.

- County portion - \$1,190,000
- Assessment portion - \$747,400
- City portion - \$885,500

A meeting for scheduling will be held in July to inform the business owners the phasing of the project and to discuss details and concerns about the project.

Construction of the project will be from May 2016 through November 2016.

Public Comments:

- Mike Buffington – How are assessments calculated? Assessments are calculated by the total cost divided by total footage and multiplied by front footage.
- Roxanne Alsaker (108 Main St W) – Concerned about the cost of the project.
- Wilma Triebenbach (107 Oak St W) – Does not like one-way street. This will be too confusing for people. Does not think it is a good idea.
- Lil Ortendahl – Feels people will not stop if they have to go down a one-way or around the block.
- Jim Snyder – No good answer. With a one-way there will be more parking and safer driving. Will be able to have a wider sidewalk which helps with tourism.
- Justin Dalheimer (211 Central Ave) – With a one-way there will be more spaces for businesses to park and vehicles will not be exiting onto Hwy 82. This will create more area for sidewalks.
- Howard Swenstad (108 1st Ave W) – The bridge at the end of 1st Ave W is only 10' 6" high. Will the bridge be removed or replaced? Krohse will talk to DOT regarding the bridge. Swenstad would like to see a parking area for downtown. Possibly Ortendahl's lot or another lot to help with parking.
- Dennis Ruhoff (11 Central Ave) – Concerned about his assessment. Part of his improvement also benefits others with water and sewer. Krohse will check into this issue.
- Tim Oehlert (233 Central Ave) – Agrees with the project but would like to keep it simple but nice so it will last for a long time. Does not want to see pavers or trees.
- LaDonna Karl (235 Central Ave) – Likes the one-way street. Would like to see a simple but nice display for sidewalks also.
- Justin Dalheimer – Can't park like we do now. Must be either a one-way or we will have parallel parking on one side. Would like to see a parking area form downtown. Possible Ortendahl's lot or another to help with parking.
- Mike Buffington – If businesses lose money during the project, is there money from the OEDC to help? Mayor Emerson stated that anyone can apply for funding through the EDA and if we feel it is for economics it will get funded.
- Dennis Ruhoff – He doesn't want to pay an assessment that others are also benefitting from. Krohse will look into the area and if others benefit from the service they will also be receiving a letter.

Kurt Haakinson asked if anyone had any objection to improving the downtown. Roxann Alsaker stated she is scared of the cost.

After all have had an opportunity to be heard, estimated assessments were available for anyone that wants to know an approximate cost.

Motion by Kostrzewski, seconded by Olson, to close the public hearing and reopen the special meeting at 8:12 p.m. All Ayes Absent: Anderson

Discussion was held and the council feels they want to proceed with the project.

A Resolution was presented by Kostrzewski, seconded by Snyder, to approve Resolution 2015-14 to order improvements and preparation of plans for the 2016 Downtown Project. When put to a vote, the resolution passed unanimously. Absent: Anderson

Mayor Emerson adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. All Ayes Absent: Anderson

Mayor – Keith E. Emerson

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson