

Osakis City Council – Special Meeting
City Hall – 14 Nokomis Street East
October 2nd, 2023
5:30 PM

Present: Alan Larson, Dan Wessel, Tim Thornbloom, Stephanie Finnegan, Laura Backes
Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Darrin Hensley, Becky Hensley, Mark LeBrun, Joachim Wiener, Travis Middendorf, David Schroers, Brian Ferris, Kurt Haakinson, Brett Grinager, Dave Patterson, Lenny Boogaard, Kimra Boogaard, Corey Poepping, Tim Erickson, Bryan Danielson, Punky Didier, Greg Gottwald, Chad Gulbranson, Calvin Uhl

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wessel at 6:03 p.m.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Thornbloom, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carries

Mayor Wessel thanked everyone for coming. Asked when speaking to keep it civil.

Backes spoke about wanting safe travels for trucks to go to businesses. This is the first meeting the council has had.

The council will allow others to speak before the council discussion.

Discussed about school and county parking situation – including school pickup /school drop-off and police present at the school.

PROJECT #294: Truck Traffic

Darrin Hensley – schools in other towns are on county roads. The signage does work – request MNDOT put signs on Hwy 27 by the pallet shop and creamery for truck route. Trucks are entitled to use the road.

Hensley said – keep business in town, there are not too many coming to town. Passenger cars are more of the problem.

Brent Grinager (Panther Distillery) rerouting we must come up 2nd Avenue. DOT rules do not allow to go by the school so they come down 2nd Avenue East.

Al Larson talked to Grinager about the use of 2nd Avenue East. Council gave no direction for Larson to talk to Grinager. Can't control how the trucks come in. GPS says navigate to the wrong area of town.

Stephanie Finnegan – Neighbors on 2nd Avenue East and could use another street (Pike Street) for shipments down to Panther. Signage is best for the truck route. There has been trucks there with flammable signs on them.

Dave Schroers (Northstar Water) – delivery up and down the road and need to get around town. Have to tell them where to go all the time.

Lenny Boogaard (Lakeview Freight) – has a lot on 1st Avenue East, it gets a lot of use and needed for food delivery to the school.

Kimra Boogaard – If school bond passes this can address parking issues. Signage for school for No through traffic. GPS routes traffic down the roads. Suggested using flashing lights to lower speed limits.

Larson can talk to Kane and Wayne Transport and problem companies that are seen.

Discussed no jake breaks in town. Put up Noise Enforcement signs – these are in place already. Council did not send anyone from the council to talk to Panther – we appreciate everyone in the community.

Backes – people in the room are not the ones to break rules – need to get information out to those not in our community.

Grinager – Panther Distillery pays taxes but don't get to vote who is on the council. Businesses keep the community alive and support the festivals.

Schroers – keep businesses happy / friends to them in our community.

Larson – can help to use routes and not residential roads.

Hensley – suggested a truck bypass – no through truck traffic, only local traffic.

Travis Middendorf said there are problems with google – routes are past the school.

Tim Erickson – GIS, website, Google, Apple can limit roads they are going down. MNDOT can put up signs – no through for truck traffic. Erickson will see if Google and Apple can change the route.

Finnegan said this is a step forward. Listening to the concerns we are aware of the issues.

Larson can talk to those with trucks on 1st Avenue East and ask to route to the 4 way stop and not by the school. Respectful to the people.

Will see how signage works and how traffic flows. Industrial Park route can be discussed is Pike Street gets paved.

Will have discussion at the October council meeting for public concern. Finnegan and Jacobson will contact those that have brought concerns.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Thornbloom, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion Carries

Mayor – Daniel J. Wessel

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson