

North Branch City Council

Work Session

Date of Meeting: May 1, 2014
Present: Councilmembers: Ronald Lindquist, Theresa Furman, Kathy Blomquist, Joyce Borchardt, and Trent Jensen.
Also Present: City Administrator Konrad, Finance Director Hill, GIS Specialist Sondrol, Engineer Messner

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Superior Silica Sand Presentation

Furman said this is a conflict for her since she lives across the street and there could be a financial impact to her property via property valuations so she would be stepping down for the discussion and abstaining. Blomquist said she will bring this up to see if this is a legitimate reason to abstain. Sharon Masek and Josh Clements from Superior Silica Sand introduced themselves and their company to the City. They presented information about their operations in Wisconsin and their desire to purchase property from the City for a transloading facility. Konrad indicated there will be an informational meeting and then a public meeting to follow in an attempt to keep residents informed of this proposed project.

III. Park Plan

Sondrol provided an overview of open space and parkland and explained that land acquired through park dedication cannot be sold. There is only one piece of property identified for possible sale and that is the Chilson lot that is only being used for trail and parking. Lindquist asked if the Council wants to have the attorney look at selling the property. Sondrol indicated the Chilson property used to be railroad property. Konrad indicated that the complication with the Chilson property is that there is an agreement with the Chilson building for public parking and the public restroom. It is also the trail head. Sondrol indicated that the trail needs to remain as it is required by the deed. Jensen said he does not want to spend more money figuring out if the City can sell this land than the sale would bring. Jensen indicated that the Park Commission did a great job. Furman asked if the City purchased Riverwalk Park. Sondrol indicated he is not sure about Riverwalk Park because there are multiple parcels. As subdivisions have come through pieces have been added to the park. Furman said that she thought the land had to be sold back to the developer and could not be sold off to someone else. Jensen said it would be good to know what the options are and whether the City can sell the properties and how that would need to occur. Konrad suggested getting an estimate from the City Attorney to review the specific parcels. Blomquist is not in favor of selling any of the properties. Three Councilmembers agreed to get an estimate from the City Attorney on the cost to look into this.

IV. Transportation Planning

Konrad asked the Council to discuss and brainstorm on transportation planning. Blomquist would like to have a plan and a plan takes money to get an engineering plan together to present to the government to work toward an overpass at 400th. Jensen said he is not in favor of using City money to get this bypass going because of the current financial situation of the City. Konrad suggested putting together an infrastructure grant application and submitting it to the state to see if some money can be given toward the project. Konrad indicated that this is not just for Superior Silica Sand because once the overpass is there other businesses will use it. Lindquist noted that Bob Streeter has talked to him about a proposal so he would recommend a meeting to discuss the transportation planning options

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and include the engineer. Konrad said that tonight she talked to Justin from Superior Silica about having WSB put together some options for consideration. Lindquist said he would be against the bypass using Jeffrey due to the hill. Furman asked if staff looked into the concrete she mentioned the last time transportation was discussed. Konrad said that there is a plan to redo County Road 30 throughout the County but no time set yet for the North Branch section. Staff will follow up as requested.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman to adjourn.

Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgitte Konrad, City Administrator
jrl/TOSS