

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – HUTCHINSON CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2005**

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 5:00 P.M.**

Mayor Steve Cook called the meeting to order. Members present were Bill Arndt, Jim Haugen and Casey Stotts. Others present were Gary Plotz, City Administrator, Marc Sebor, City Attorney and John Rodeberg, Director of Public Works.

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

(a) **LETTING NO. 4, PROJECT NO. 05-04 & 05-05 (DOWNTOWN STREETScape) – DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED, ORDERING PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT AND SETTING HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT**

John Rodeberg, Director of Public Works, presented before the Council. Mr. Rodeberg clarified that tonight's purpose is only to set the assessment hearing and not award the bid. Mr. Rodeberg also noted that the final cost on the project is approximately \$1.4 million, which is approximately 30% lower than originally estimated. 20% of the project will be assessed to property owners. Mr. Rodeberg further noted that there was a bid irregularity on the low bid and legal action may be pending from the second lowest bidder. Mr. Rodeberg described the irregularity as a line error, however the total bottom line bid was not alternated and would have been the lowest bid regardless of the line error.

Mayor Cook asked if the assessment hearing is in essence accepting the low bid. Mr. Rodeberg noted that the assessment hearing can be held, and if at that time the Council does not accept the final assessment numbers, the project can be stopped.

City Attorney Sebor iterated that the lowest bidder has been identified as such and the line error was more or less a type-o, with the total bid number not being altered. Mr. Sebor also noted that the second lowest bidder, Duinink Bros., could file an injunction, and explained various outcomes of that.

Motion by Stotts, second by Arndt, to accept assessment roll and set assessment hearing for June 14, 2005. Motion carried unanimously.

(b) **DISCUSSION OF MOSQUITO CONTROL SPRAYING OPERATIONS**

Mayor Cook noted that he has had second thoughts on delaying spraying for mosquitos in 2005. Mayor Cook suggested using two units running six-hours and renting instead of purchasing a machine from the City of Litchfield. Mayor Cook feels that the effectiveness of briquettes may run out in August and does not cover the entire city. Ken Merrill, Finance Director, noted that there are some financing options that could be put in place for 2005.

John Rodeberg noted that he has concerns with the process of putting in place spraying for mosquito control now. He also has concerns with the lack of staff to conduct the procedure and the low placement of this on the essential services list.

Council Member Arndt stated he was surprised that this item was on the agenda because it was passed unanimously at the last Council meeting to delay with spraying and see how effective the briquettes are for this year.

Motion by Arndt, second by Haugen, to delay spraying for mosquito control and see how effective the briquettes are for this year. Mayor Cook had asked staff if the spraying was put in place for this summer if it could be accomplished by July 4th. John Rodeberg noted that it is feasible if additional seasonal staff is hired to aid in the full-time workload. John Olson stated that he researched a little bit the abatement program to determine if the City could have a mosquito control program but not an abatement board, specifically with right-of-entry onto private property. Another issue Mr. Olson would like to research is the

effects of the chemical on human beings. Mr. Rodeberg stated his main concern is the timing of putting this into place and the procedure that is used. Furthermore, Mr. Olson stated that more research should be done on the pros and cons of an abatement board. Mr. Olson also explained the reasoning for the use of three machines as opposed to two machines. Council Member Haugen reminded the group that the City has applied the briquettes, and thus, is taking some action on mosquito control. Council Member Stotts also noted that there is a fiscal responsibility to consider. A roll call vote was taken – Haugen aye; Arndt aye; Stotts aye; Cook nay. Motion carried 3 to 1.

3. **MISCELLANEOUS**

(a) COMMUNICATIONS

Casey Stotts – Council Member Stotts stated that he was contacted by a citizen who was very thankful to the street department for filling the potholes.

4. **ADJOURN**

With no further business to discuss, motion by Haugen, second by Arndt, to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.