

**MINUTES
HUTCHINSON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2006 6:30 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 P.M.**

Mayor Steve Cook called the meeting to order. Members present were Bill Arndt, Kay Peterson, Jim Haugen and Casey Stotts. Others present were John Rodeberg, Public Works Director and Kent Exner, City Engineer.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING**

(a) LETTING NO. 1, PROJECT NO. 96-01 (HIGHWAY 7 PROJECT)

- ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS
- APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Motion by Stotts, second by Arndt to open public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

John Rodeberg, Director of Public Works, presented before the Council. Mr. Rodeberg explained that an open house was held prior to the public hearing to share information from the City and Mn/DOT, as well as show designs of the School Road Underpass and the Crow River Dam reconstruction. The purpose for the public hearing is to approve the plans and specifications and advertisement for bids, which if approved, will be opened February 24, 2006.

Kent Exner, City Engineer, presented before the Council. Mr. Exner explained that the reconstruction will run on Hwy 7 from 5th Avenue NE to Shady Ridge Road. Stage 1 of the project is planned to be constructed Spring 2006 – June 2006 with Stage 2 taking place from June 2006 – Late 2006. Stage 3, from Water Street to Shady Ridge Road, is proposed to be constructed in 2007. Mn/DOT improvements include a five-lane concrete roadway, crosswalks, sidewalks & trails, traffic signals, retaining walls and a new Main Street bridge with Luce Line Trail underpass. The City's improvements include new trunk sanitary sewer system, new trunk watermain system, new water and sewer services, storm sewer and treatment pond improvements, reconstruction of side streets, completion of TH7 service road and Montana Street extension. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$28.7 million which does not include MnDOT bridge, landscaping, traffic signal and lighting design or local efforts. The estimated project cost for the city's improvements are estimated at \$4.9 million, or roughly 20% of the project. This will be funded from the sanitary sewer fund, watermain fund, city bonding and assessments. Mr. Exner further explained the cost sharing of the project between the City and the property owner. Assessments to property owners for sanitary sewer and water services are estimated at \$3000-\$5000 and for general street/drainage assessments are estimated at \$45-55/front foot. The actual assessment hearing will be held in March or April prior to the project actually being awarded.

Ford Rolf presented before the Council. Mr. Rolf explained that he owns property on Water Street behind Subway. Mr. Rolf had questions about the road height of Hwy 7 compared to Water Street. John Rodeberg explained that this is a design issue and the Mn/DOT engineering team should be able to show him elevation projections.

John Rodeberg commented that staff is considering an assessment policy revision which would reduce the length of standard of service for residential properties as compared to commercial properties, as well as a deferred assessment rate for residential properties. Commercial properties typically benefit more from highway reconstruction projects as compared to residential properties.

Motion by Arndt, second by Stotts, to close public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Cook noted that he was in favor of changing the service length for residential properties.

Motion by Arndt, second by Haugen, to order improvement and preparation of plans, approve plans and specifications and advertisement for bids, including assessment policy revisions of reducing length of standard of service for residential properties and a reduced or deferred assessment rate on residential properties. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **ADJOURN**

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Stotts, seconded by Arndt, to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.