



discussion at the Council level to see if any new funding options were available.

Mr. Ebe stated that returning this portion back into the project in a phased approach would make the most sense. Phase one would include mobilization, demolition, and gravel base at a cost of approximately \$44,000. Phase two would include curb, gutter, and asphalt at approximately \$51,000. Finally, sidewalks and landscaping would be included in phase three for a cost of \$27,000. Staff was of the opinion that doing the improvements now would give the City leverage in requiring new development to make projects work with established City design.

The Council discussed at length the impacts of future development along this stretch of roadway. Several among the Council felt doing the improvements in conjunction with this project made sense, while others felt that the City was not in a financial position to accomplish this.

***It was moved by Councilmember Reilly to approve the proposed phase one to be added back into the project at a cost of approximately \$44,000, which was seconded by Councilmember Hansen.***

***Motion passed five-to-one, with Councilmember Elgart voting no.***

### **DISCUSSION ON ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES**

#### **Planning and Judicial Committee Discussion Item**

The Committee had discussed comparisons of elected officials' compensation in like-sized cities, with the Council-Mayor form of government. The Council currently receives \$200 per month, and the Mayor receives \$1,000 per month. While the Committee was not comfortable raising the Council's salaries, they felt that the Mayor's compensation should be between 2 ½ to 3 times that of the Council's, or \$550 per month.

Councilmember Elgart supports the decrease, saying that elected positions should be motivated by a desire for public service and not money.

Councilmember Wilson said he would not support a decrease in the Mayor's salary.

Councilmember Cole stated that she would not support raising the Council's salary, and that the current structure is out of parity with other cities.

Walt Pollman felt that this was an interesting discussion, but that elected official's salaries are only a minute portion of the overall budget. He added that good people should be paid appropriately.

Lloyd Zimmerman stated that low salaries are the reason for apathy in the candidates' arena, He would like to see Ferndale's salaries the same as Lynden's.

Councilmember Hansen felt that \$200 per month was too low, but should not be raised at this time. He would support leaving the salaries as they are.

Councilmember Landcastle felt that \$1,000 is appropriate for the Mayor's salary. He added that a Mayor's job has many important responsibilities and should have adequate compensation. He also favored Lynden's compensation structure. He added that the Council is currently grossly underpaid.

Councilmember Elgart pointed out that Lynden has nearly six times the revenue of Ferndale. Mayor Jensen stated she had no problem with lowering the Mayor's salary, but did feel that the Council's should be raised.

Administrator Signett recalled that the last time the Council's salary had changed was in the early

eighties.

After further discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Landcastle and seconded by Councilmember Reilly to delay any action on this item until the second meeting in August.

**DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL TRAVEL POLICY**

**Planning and Judicial Committee Discussion Item**

The Committee had developed some language regarding Council travel to add to the Council's Policies and Procedures. They had also proposed even distribution of travel and registration funds among the Council positions.

Councilmember Elgart felt strongly that the current funds are not being used in an equitable manner and that safeguards must be set up to ensure fairness.

Councilmember Landcastle stated that Councilmembers should participate in educational costs when necessary.

Douglas Knight said that the Council should consider that education is vital to their positions. He suggested raising the amounts allocated for training as a form of indirect compensation.

After further discussion the Council directed that this item be reviewed in more detail during upcoming budget sessions.

**SET COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The following committee meetings were scheduled:

Streets and Utilities	Wednesday, July 23	7:30 a.m.
Planning and Judicial	Wednesday, July 23	1:00 p.m.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**Public Works**

Director Sperry updated the Council on the various projects underway.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Hansen reminded everyone that it is Old Settlers Week.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further scheduled City business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Carolyn Jensen, Mayor

Linda Knutson, City Clerk