

MINUTES
Ferndale City Council Special Meeting
Held Tuesday, September 30, 2003
City Hall Annex Building – 5694 Second Avenue
5:00 p.m.

PRESENT BY ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Steve Oliver
Councilmember Mike Reilly
Councilmember Susan Cole
Councilmember Ron Wilson

Councilmember Mel Hansen
Councilmember Marianne Elgart (arrived 5:10)
Councilmember Jerry Landcastle

ABSENT: Mayor Carolyn Jensen

STAFF: City Administrator Roland Signett City Clerk Linda Knutson
Public Works Director Loren Sperry City Engineer Jim Hobbs

Mayor Pro-Tem Mel Hansen Presiding

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Hansen.

EMERGENCY CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT – CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

Mayor Pro-Tem announced that the purpose of the Special Meeting was first to consider bids for the Emergency Culvert Replacement Project, and second to consider alternatives from the small works roster on a scaled down project.

Administrator Signett stated that staff was recommending that the published bids be rejected for being too much over the engineer's estimate. Several restrictions in the specifications for this project had higher than expected impacts on the actual bids. Staff was not comfortable recommending acceptance when the possibility of exploring less-expensive alternatives existed.

Motion

It was moved by Councilmember Landcastle and seconded by Councilmember Wilson to reject all bids on the published Emergency Culvert Replacement Project.

Motion passed unanimously.

City Engineer Jim Hobbs stated that the Streets and Utilities Committee had asked him to research options regarding the replacement of the failing culvert running from Vista to west of City Hall.

Engineer Hobbs said that Reichhardt and Ebe has scaled down the culvert replacement, and removed the restrictive time elements of the proposed project. Engineer Hobbs said that the engineer's estimate for the scaled down project is approximately \$174,000, making it eligible for the small works roster. An alternate bid, consisting of abandoning the existing storm drain under 7-Eleven is estimated at \$6,500. Administrator Signett reviewed that the City recently secured a low-interest emergency loan of \$150,000 from the Public Works Trust Funds and the remaining funds would come from the Utility Reserve Account.

Of the bids received from the small works roster, Wilder Construction was the low bidder at \$203,762.60, and an alternate 1 bid of \$5,070.00, for a total of \$208,832.60. Engineer Hobbs suggested that a poor bidding climate, as well as coming to the end of the construction season and good weather, contributed to high bids from the small works roster.

Councilmember Reilly favored rejecting bids, and instead having the City crew patch the culvert at the bank's drive through, where there is an imminent failure. He felt that any further work could wait until spring.

Councilmember Oliver stated that the project needed to go forward, however the financial picture must be carefully considered.

Councilmember Wilson asked about the previous possibility of slip-lining. Engineer Hobbs stated that engineering models are proving unfavorable for sufficient flow. Another major problem with this option is that staging areas would need to be set up at each end of the project, requiring fifty to one-hundred feet. The engineers' opinion is that slip-lining is not in the best interest of the City.

Councilmember Oliver suggested that if the most southerly portion of the culvert is sound enough to leave out of the project, it might save the City enough money to come in under \$200,000, if the Alternate 1 was also excluded. Engineer Hobbs agreed that taking these elements out of the project would lower the cost to approximately \$190,000.

Motion

It was moved by Councilmember Landcastle and seconded by Councilmember Wilson to accept the bid from Wilder Construction, including Alternate 1, for the emergency culvert replacement through the small works roster.

Discussion

Councilmember Landcastle asked Director Sperry if he was comfortable with the crew doing the section of pipe under 7-Eleven. Sperry responded that he was.

Administrator Signett asked if Wilder could reduce the scope of their bid response to meet some of the suggestions being offered by Council. Engineer Hobbs stated that this should not be a problem.

Councilmember Cole wondered if there would be flow problems if the project stopped at Main Street, as was being proposed. Engineer Hobbs responded that none were anticipated at this point.

Amendment to Motion

Councilmember Oliver moved to amend the main motion to state that no more than \$40,000 be taken from reserves to pay for this project. This was seconded by Councilmember Wilson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Second Amendment to Motion

It was moved by Councilmember Wilson to further amend the main motion to scale back the project to stop at the north side of Main Street, and to delay the fill under 7-Eleven until spring, at which time the City crew will perform this work, thus eliminating Alternate 1 from the bid. This was seconded by Councilmember Landcastle.

Motion passed six-to-one, with Councilmember Reilly voting no.

Discussion on Main Motion as Amended

Mayor Pro-Tem Hansen said he had serious concerns regarding the many infrastructure problems needing attention in the near future, and that the City's reserve accounts should only be accessed in extreme emergencies.

Vote

Mayor Pro-Tem Hansen restated the motion as amended: “To accept the bid by Wilder Construction, minus the Main Street portion, and delaying the Alternate 1 until spring with the City crew doing the work, and not allowing the reserve funds used to exceed \$40,000.”

Motion passed five-to-two, with Councilmembers Reilly and Hansen voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further scheduled City business, the special meeting of the Council was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor Pro-Tem Mel Hansen

City Clerk Linda Knutson