

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY OF LITTLEFORK
IN THE COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING AND STATE OF MINNESOTA
INCLUDING ALL ACCOUNTS AUDITED BY SAID COUNCIL**

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Loren Lehman called the meeting to order at 3:30PM at City Hall, 901 Main Street.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mike Fort (via phone), Sara Wendt, Loren Lehman, Quen Kennedy, Todd Thydean.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Sonja Pelland, Kory Williams, Jason Chopp, Austin Kalisch, Mike Bubany

The purpose of the meeting was to hear information about a proposed paving project and discuss the various aspects of the project presented by engineers from SEH Engineering. Jason Chopp provided a map of the areas to be paved, a memorandum from August 30, 2023 with preliminary cost estimates, and a memorandum from February 22, 2024 with updated preliminary cost estimates developed after the geotechnical investigation of the street conditions had been completed so that they could make recommendations as to what types of repair would be needed street by street. The updated estimate is \$2,194,728.

Jason stated that the City applied for LRIP funds, and 80/20 grant program for the Main Street and Ninth Avenue portions of the project and will hear in the next couple of weeks if the grant will be awarded. He informed the council that the next steps would be to finalize the design, finalize cost estimates, and complete a feasibility report as to assessment costs. The City council will need to decide whether to do the project all at once or in sections.

Most of the roads would need to be reclaimed and paved, some require full reconstruction, and a few would only require mill and overlay. The group discussed the impacts of each type of construction and potential issues in areas where new pavement will be approximately 5 inches higher than it currently is in some areas.

Mike Bubany of David Drown and Associates was in attendance to advise on the financial aspects of the project and presented probable impacts on the taxpayers. If the project goes forward property owners' assessments would be much higher than the 2017 project and taxpayers will be significantly impacted in order to pay the city's share of the project. He did not advise against doing the project, only that the financial impacts be carefully considered.

The meeting continued with Austin Kalisch reviewing the project street by street with the council in order to ask and answer questions, so that he may accurately present the preliminary assessments for the feasibility study. Once complete, the council will review the study before moving forward or holding public hearings.

Adjournment

Councilor Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Councilor Wendt to adjourn the meeting at 5:25PM. The motion carried 5-0.

Attest: Sonja E. Pelland, City Clerk

Mayor Mike Fort