

City of Creswell
Work Session Minutes
February 26, 2007

The special scheduled work session was called to order by Mayor Ron Petitti and the pledge of allegiance given.

Council Present:

Nathan Marple Bob Millam
David Case Ron Petitti
Alan Brown Tim Demanett

Staff Present:

Mark Shrives City Administrator
Roy Sprout Public Works director
Layli Nichols City Recorder

Council Absent:

Bill McCoy

Press:

1

Audience:

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1. Harvey Road Project:

City Administrator Mark Shrives distributed page 53 of the Transportation System Plan (TSP), which shows Nth 5th Street as the top priority identified for improvement. The TSP calls for improvements from Morse Ave. south to Oregon Ave. The project currently proposed by Lane County would construct proposed improvements, dedicating the improved road to the City upon completion. Mr. Shrives said Lane County Roads Advisory Committee scheduled a public hearing on February 28th, and the City should have a spokesperson present to speak in favor of remaining on the Capital Improvement Projects list. Ron Petitti said he would not be available, but Tim Demanett said he would be able to attend with Mr. Shrives. Mr. Petitti said it is important to keep pushing for the project with the County as he feels only projects where the County can recover costs or those which are safety issues are being kept due to funding issues.

Mr. Shrives said the county has generated two budgets, one which includes the rural schools money, the second which does not. He said the City can assist with keeping the project on their improvement plan by attending the public hearing and offering testimony, showing the existence of a safety issue and being able to provide match dollars to help cover the cost of the project. Mr. Shrives explained the City was originally thought to be responsible for paying for the storm water upgrade in addition to the match of \$300,000, but the County said the cost of the storm water upgrade may be included as part of the match. In addition, the City may be eligible for another Oregon Department of Transportation Special City Allotment Grant in the amount of \$25,000.

Mr. Shrives said the Council has several options to choose from:

- Allow the County to complete the proposed project as presented by the County, including no additional improvements.
- Include upgraded storm sewer, and water main within the proposed project area
- Extend the project at the City's expense from Scott South to 'A' Street, with or without upgrades to storm sewer and water lines.
- Extend the project at the City's expense from Scott South to Oregon Avenue, with or without upgrades to storm sewer and water lines.

The county has agreed to bid the project inclusive of any additional improvements the City wished to include at the City's expense. Discussion ensued regarding the project options and projected costs. Finance Director Layli Nichols distributed an estimated costs sheet, showing the total cost to the City for completing the upgrade to storm sewer and water line in the original project area to be \$722,940. To extend the project from Scott Lane to 'A' Street would cost an additional \$603,000, and to complete improvements to Oregon Avenue would cost an additional \$402,000. Ms. Nichols indicated that the cost of engineering and design were not represented. She said the City could create a Local Improvement District (LID), to offset some of the costs associated with curb, gutter, and sidewalk improvements. Ms. Nichols said in her

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opinion, the City could not afford to complete improvements to Oregon Avenue at this time. She indicated that completing improvements to 'A' Street would be difficult in light of the fact that the City would no longer be receiving City County Road Share Partnership monies from Lane County in light of the sunset on federal rural schools money. She said the road share money represents one third of the revenue within the street fund, and until there is a stable revenue replacement, it would be difficult to fund any capital projects for road improvements.

Bob Millam suggested the City address the right of way issues to Oregon Avenue at this time, but only completed improvements to 'A' Street. He felt it would be wise to begin addressing any right of way issues in that area, in order to make build-out to Oregon Avenue simpler in the future.

Discussion ensued regarding finding a revenue replacement for the rural schools money, and it was suggested a gas tax might be the only viable solution. Ron Petitti noted that Eugene, Springfield, Oakridge, Veneta, and Cottage Grove have all implemented a gas tax. He said he would be a proponent for a city gas tax, and would recommend a 5-cent tax. He noted Eugene and Cottage Grove are in the process of evaluating an increase to their existing gas tax.

Ron Petitti asked for an informal pole of the council regarding a gas tax. Bob Millam said he is not a big proponent of taxes, but knows the City needs the revenue. Tim Demanett said there are many streets in Creswell which need attention and the City needs to do something in order to be able to maintain existing streets, and he would be supportive of investigating the idea. David Case said he is favor of a gas tax because those who use the roads need to help pay for them. He said that his elderly neighbors would be all for it because they only fill their tank up once every several months. Nathan Marple said he is in favor of investigating the idea, but asked if other cities could be polled to see if there are other means of generating revenue. Alan Brown said he feels the City needs to pursue the idea of gas tax.

Ron Petitti said he feels that the City has to look at the issue of revenue replacement for the street fund. Discussion ensued and council gave consensus that City Administrator Mark Shrives bring preliminary information to the March Council meeting. Bob Millam suggested the Street Committee meet to prioritize the project list for street maintenance and infrastructure.

City Administrator Mark Shrives reviewed council direction noting: he would issue a letter to Lane County advising the Council would be approving the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Harvey Road Improvement Project at the March Council meeting, the City intends to pursue the project including the upgrades to storm sewer and water lines to 'A' Street, and add the project from 'A' Street to Oregon Avenue as an alternate bid item, and finally bring preliminary information regarding a gas tax to the March council meeting.

Tim Demanett said he would like to address the sidewalks on 'A' Street from 5th to 6th at some point in the future, as he feels they are dangerous. Public Works Director Roy Sprout said that several of the trees on that block are slated to be removed, as they are unhealthy.

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Petitti adjourned the meeting.

Ron Petitti, Mayor

Layli A. Nichols, City Recorder