

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
RAND CENTER
JUNE 26, 2012
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Sargent presided over the special session and called it to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council members present: Isom, Struble, Dillinger and Dinsmore. Council member Ratliff was absent. Also present were City Clerk/Administrator Miller, City Attorney Argotsinger, City Engineers Jim Olmsted and Greg Perry and visitors: Fred Hoyt, Diane Hoyt, Tim Ward, Bob Thompson, John Riley, Evelyn Lynch, Shane Voss and Lisa Voss.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moved by Council member Struble to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council member Dillinger. Motion carried on a 4-0 vote.

Moved by Council member Dillinger to deny the request from the property owner of 571 N 1st Street to exempt the back portion of his lot from the City mowing ordinance. Motion died for lack of a second. Council discussed the issue with Council member Dillinger stating he felt that others in the same area had been issued nuisance abatements and complied with them so it would not be right to allow this property owner to not mow his ground. Council member Dinsmore stated he did not believe this was native prairie grass but that it was brome and would be a good cover crop if it was left to go to seed before being cut. He felt the property should be mowed back 50 – 75 feet behind the house and if there were weeds in the grassy area, it needed to be mowed until the brome takes over. Council member Isom stated he thought there was a lot of timber and the property owner shouldn't have to remove the trees or mow between them, but that the noxious weeds should be controlled. Council member Struble was in favor of allowing the grass to go to seed and then cutting it. He stated once the grass was knocked down he felt the property owner should be able to keep it maintained. The property owner said he would like to have someone put it up for hay and he offered it for free. He explained that the ground is in a low area and water tends to sit on it so he is not able to mow it all the time but he will mow it at least once a year. He felt his property was a different situation from others and asked Council to consider a "reasonability test" where some properties are not able to be maintained in the same manner as others. He cited examples of property on hillsides, railroad ROW, and dikes. City Clerk/Administrator Miller informed Council the nuisance abatement notice on this property had come about due to a complaint and upon investigation it was found not to be in compliance with City code. Council member Dillinger expressed concerns that if this request was granted, other property owners served with an abatement notice will come to the Council with a reason why that can't comply, so where would the line be drawn. Moved by Council member Dinsmore to allow the property owner at 571 N 1st Street to leave the brome grass to stand as is. Roll call.

AYES: Struble, Isom, Dinsmore
NAYS: Dillinger. Motion carried.

Jim Olmsted and Greg Perry explained the intent of this meeting was to get input from the citizens on whether they were interested in a permanent paved street and presented

information on the proposed Shawmutt Avenue paving project. Mr. Olmsted explained that Shawmutt had never been paved in permanent form (minimum 6" thick full-depth asphalt or concrete) and therefore per City policy, a portion of the costs would be assessed to abutting property owners. The estimated cost of the project is \$271,000. The City would pay all intersection and drainage work, with that portion being \$95,000. The remaining \$175,000 would be split 50/50 between the City and property owners, based on their frontage. The estimated cost for the property owners is \$49.50/ft, i.e. \$4,950 for a 100' lot, \$6,930 for a 140' lot. After the project is completed, final assessments would be made. These could be paid off as a special assessment over a ten-year period, which would include interest or could be paid in a lump sum without interest. The project would be started this year, completed by fall and assessments set this winter.

Discussion was held concerning asphalt versus concrete. Although the asphalt is less expensive, it was felt the concrete would hold up better. Mr. Olmsted and Mr. Perry answered questions from the property owners.

Moved by Council member Dinsmore to proceed with the project and direct the City Attorney and the City Engineer to start working on the creation of the paving district to assess costs, seconded by Council member Isom. Motion carried on a 4-0 vote.

Moved by Council member Struble to adjourn, seconded by Council member Dillinger. Motion carried on a 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Clint Sargent, Mayor

Attest:
Rita Miller
City Clerk/Administrator