

PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE CROOKSTON CITY COUNCIL, POLK COUNTY, MINNESOTA. THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2005, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL.

Mayor Don Osborne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested all present to stand for a moment of silence.

Council Members present in answer to roll call were: Craig Bunes, Marlys Mjoen, Keith Mykleseth, Wayne Melbye, Harry Manole, Tom Vedbraaten, Dave Genereux and Frank Lindgren.

Staff present were: Pat Kelly, Gene Wisness, Chad Palm, Arlene Tucker, Scott Kleven, Brian Halos, Aaron Parrish and Betty Arvidson.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.01 Susie Palmer and Tom Kummrow from the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety presented the Crookston Police Department with a Mobile Vision In-Squad camera in recognition of the great job the Department has done for the past 3 years with the Safe and Sober grants they have received. They thanked the Mayor and Council for the support they have given the Department.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Mjoen, seconded by Council Member Lindgren and duly carried that the Agenda be approved as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Genereux, seconded by Council Member Melbye and duly carried by roll call vote to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the following items:

- 6.01 Approve proposed City Council Minutes of February 22, 2005.
- 6.02 Resolution to approve City of Crookston bills and disbursements in the amount of \$186,651.35. Check Nos. 25530 through 25652. (RES. NO. 24088)
- 6.03 Resolution to approve declaring adequacy of petition and calling for hearing on improvements of South Front Street from Ingersoll Avenue to MacLaren Avenue. (RES. NO. 24089)
- 6.04 Resolution to approve acquiring easements for the UMC Bike Path Project. (RES. NO. 24090)
- 6.05 Resolution to approve a "Deferment of Special Assessment for Senior Citizens and the Disabled because of Hardship" policy. (RES. NO. 24091)

PUBLIC HEARING

7.01 2005 Street Improvements.

Mayor Osborne opened the public hearing on the 2005 Street Improvements. He stated that if anyone wanted to be heard to please come to the podium and state his or her name and address.

Mike Joseph, 720 Alexander Street, wanted to know why they wanted to put sidewalk in front of his home when there is sidewalk right across the street and there has never been one there before. He also asked how much boulevard is needed to put in a sidewalk. He has lilac bushes all along the street in front of his house, where the sidewalk is proposed to go and he is afraid they would have to remove all of the lilacs to get a sidewalk in.

Mayor Osborne asked Public Works Director Pat Kelly to answer Mr. Joseph's questions.

Kelly stated that there is no minimum boulevard requirement to place a sidewalk, as you can place a sidewalk with no boulevard.

Joseph then asked how he would remove the snow from the sidewalk that the snowplow would leave after it goes by.

Kelly stated that he didn't think the plans for this project showed the sidewalk right up against the curb.

Mr. Joseph stated that the sidewalk would have to go right behind the curb, as his lilac bushes are only 5-8' from the curb.

Kelly stated the plan would be to trim the bushes back in order to place the sidewalk.

Joseph said he would hate to lose his privacy that the lilacs provide.

Kelly stated that he didn't say they would remove the lilacs, just trim them back. When he looked at the preliminary plans it showed the lilacs still being there.

Joseph asked if there was also going to be sidewalk placed on the other side of the street.

Kelly stated the Council made the decision to place a continuous sidewalk on the east side of the street.

Council Member Mykleseth asked how far back would the sidewalk have to be before it would not be in the way of snow from the snow plow.

Kelly said it would be relative based on how much snow is received in a year. He stated there is adequate room within the City right-of-way to install a sidewalk.

Mykleseth said that his question would be as it relates to a lot more snow removal due to the fact that the sidewalk is close to the curb. In some cases, if the sidewalk is that close to the curb it is unreasonable to ask the residents to shovel all of that snow. Mykleseth is trying to figure out if this would be the case on this sidewalk.

Kelly stated that we have sidewalk all over the City that has 3' boulevards, such as in the Wood's Addition. We have some areas of town with the sidewalk right behind the curb that the property owners maintain.

Mykleseth stated that we also have some that the residents don't maintain. Kelly agreed.

Joseph stated that on the next block (South) there isn't sidewalk going all the way down to Riverside.

Mykleseth, in answer to Joseph's question, stated that a lot of residents don't want sidewalks. What this Council is trying to do is come up with something they can agree on. It is his feeling that the Council agrees they don't want residents walking out in the street or crossing over streets on certain roadways that are more highly traveled. Mykleseth stated that he sympathized with the residents, but the sidewalk by the school property is an older sidewalk and as we are going through and doing these street projects it's nice to redo the sidewalks all of the way. Mykleseth also stated that on a State Aid Street (which this project is) the sidewalk does not cost the resident any additional money to put in. You will pay \$30 a front foot whether sidewalk is installed or not. It makes sense to install sidewalks on State Aid streets.

Council Member Vedbraaten asked how wide are the sidewalks.

Kelly stated 5'.

Vedbraaten stated there is 8' from the power poles to the curb at Joseph's address, as he went and measured it.

Joseph stated that the power poles are right in his lilac bushes. Mykleseth said it sounds like the sidewalk would only be a couple of feet from the curb.

Kelly stated that the plans are only preliminary drawings. Mykleseth asked if the City would do the best they could to place this sidewalk within the proximity of where Mr. Joseph would like it.

Kelly stated they would do the best they can. They need to balance having boulevard and retaining the lilac bushes.

Mykleseth stated that Mr. Opperud, 503 Central Avenue North, had asked about an access going into his house. If there is a step needed could we accommodate that? Kelly stated that he had informed the Opperud's at the informational meeting that we would look at it when construction is started to see what could be done.

Mayor Osborne suggested that Joseph could stop by City Hall and look at the plans to see the proposed location of the sidewalk.

Mykleseth stated that this is a tough decision but if we don't want people walking on the street we have to strike a compromise. Mykleseth offered to meet with Mr. Joseph in the spring when the snow is gone and look at the plans to determine where the sidewalk is planned and how it would affect the lilac bushes.

Raymond Opperud, 503 Central Avenue North, stated he also doesn't see why they have to have sidewalks on their side of the street. He has lived in his home over 50 years and they have never had a sidewalk. When they put in Central Avenue they put sidewalk in from his corner up to Highland School. At that time he had asked to have a sidewalk put in on the Alexander side of his house because the kids walked on the road to Lincoln School. Now, Lincoln school is no longer used for a school and they want to put sidewalks in. He didn't think this made sense.

Mr. Opperud asked about the slope on his property and how they were going to put in the sidewalk since they would want it flat. He did state that he had visited with Pat Kelly about it and Pat had explained it to him.

Mr. Opperud asked why there weren't sidewalks being installed in the NE corner where all of the new homes are going up. Mykleseth stated that it is best to wait to install sidewalks after the homes are built so the sidewalk doesn't get broken up during the construction of the homes.

Council Member Vedbraaten stated that he knows a lot of people do not want sidewalks. He questioned where this one was going as he felt it was going to a dead end.

Mykleseth stated that we have to think bigger picture. We have younger and older families in these areas and regardless, if there is a school or not, he doesn't want to see people walking out in the street. Anytime we can put a sidewalk in on a State Aid Street and not have the local taxpayers have to pay extra money we should put it in on at least one side of the street. He stated that he called a majority of the people, but most of them did live on the other side of the street so they were O.K. with it. He knew that there would be a couple of residents that would not want a sidewalk. But, as a Council Member he has to make hard decisions some times. He is going to do every thing he can to accommodate them as much as he can within the realm that he is given but he cannot say that he doesn't want sidewalks at least on one side of the street. He stated that we have to have sidewalks and not have people walking on the streets. We have to think 20-30 years down the road and we can't be changing our scenarios all the time just to fit the present time.

Vedbraaten remarked that one family had stated they wanted sidewalks leading to the schools, and he could see that, but Lincoln is no longer a school. Mykleseth stated it is a main thoroughfare and people walk down that street all of the time. He stated over time the Council should develop a continuous sidewalk on one side of the street. He would like to see us more consistent, and stated we have to start somewhere.

Council Member Bunes stated that he agrees with Council Member Mykleseth. He stated that he wished we could go back 50 years and change things. If you drive around town there is very little consistency. As a Council we have looked at this and to grow the city what we need to do, regarding safety issues as there are getting to be more and more of the motorized scooters for the elderly, is to make sure there are sidewalks on the main corridors heading to schools, parks, etc. We will try to do this with the least amount of impact on the residents but it is going to affect some people. It makes it tough to try to accommodate some things and then you come to a point where you are picking and choosing. We will try to make the best decisions that we can and it will impact some people. Like Mr. Joseph mentioned earlier, he does not want the sidewalk but there may be people up and down the street that do. We have the money to do the project now and put in all new sidewalks.

Bunes stated the Council looked at the plan. The Council felt the best option, when you come from the north and head to the middle school, would be to stay on the one side of the street. We need to look at this as a community.

Mayor Osborne asked if anyone else wished to be heard and upon hearing none he closed the public hearing.

REGULAR AGENDA

8.01 Ordinance amending the City of Crookston's Home Rule Charter.

Ordinance No. 168, 2nd Series

On Motion by Council Member Bunes, seconded by Council Member Mjoen

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA, AMENDING THE HOME RULE CHARTER BY CHANGING A PROVISION WHICH SPECIFIES THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT AT A MEETING IN ORDER TO CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

Council member voting in the negative: None.

Council Member voting in the positive: Bunes, Mjoen, Mykleseth, Melbye, Manole, Vedbraaten, Genereux and Lindgren.

8.02 On motion by Council Member Lindgren, seconded by Council Member Genreux and duly carried;
Resolution to approve ordering improvement and preparation of plans for the 2005 Street Improvements. (RES. NO. 24092)

REPORTS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Craig Bunes, Council Member 1 st Ward	-	No report.
Marlys Mjoen, Council Member 2 nd Ward	-	No report.
Keith Mykleseth, Council Member 3 rd Ward	-	No report.
Wayne Melbye, Council Member 4 th Ward	-	No report.
Harry Manole, Council Member 5th Ward	-	No report.
Tom Vedbraaten, Council Member 6 th Ward	-	No report.
Dave Genreux, Council Member-at-Large	-	No report.
Frank Lindgren, Council Member-at-Large	-	No report.

Gene Wisness, Police Lieutenant, wanted to inform the Mayor and Council that the Police Department was in the process of starting alcohol compliance checks, in case they hear from some of the local business owners.

On Motion by Council Member Mykleseth , seconded by Council Member Mjoen and duly carried that there being no further business to come before the City Council that said meeting be adjourned.

Donald A. Osborne, Mayor

Betty Arvidson, City Clerk-Treasurer