

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Work Session – June 8, 2009

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, June 8, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Lehmann, Johnson, Negard, Waldhausen, Downs, Meuers Absent: Hellquist

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, City Attorney Al Felix, City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Others Present: Brian Grund, Tyler Estates Residents

Mayor Lehmann stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the Tyler Estates Flood Analysis Phase I Report prepared by Barr Engineering.

City Engineer Gray reviewed the Phase I Flood Analysis Report noting that there were two objectives. First, to provide an analysis of the flooding that occurred this past spring and the second was to develop some preliminary information on some long-term flood mitigation alternatives. Gray stated that the estimated amount of runoff due to snowmelt this spring was determined to be between 3.2 and 3.6 inches. In addition, the amount of rainfall contributed between 2.49 and 3.17 inches. The estimated total runoff that occurred between March 15 and March 25, 2009 was between 5.7 and 6.8 inches. The average is close to a 50-year frequency event, meaning that the chance of the same amount of runoff occurring during any given year is about 2 percent. Gray noted that flood problems could still occur with less runoff.

Gray reviewed the five alternatives proposed by Barr Engineering. These estimates are preliminary and are only appropriate for use on a planning level. He stated that in order to provide more accurate information the stormwater model would need to be completed as part of a Phase II Study. The alternatives are as follows:

Alt.	Description	Estimated Cost	Easements
1	Pumped Outlet to the North	\$1.3-\$2.0 million	No
2	Gravity Outlet to the West	\$900,000-\$1.3 million	17 acres
3	Provide Upland Storage	\$2.7-\$4.0 million	40 acres
4	Construction of Ring Levee	\$1.2-\$1.9 million	10 acres
5	Purchase at Risk Homes	\$1.6-\$1.7 million	None

Gray noted that the estimated costs did not include the cost of acquiring easements. Gray stated that the City's ability to fund any of the alternatives is difficult. He recommended that the Council authorize the completion of a Phase II drainage study as it will provide refined estimates and provide a better understanding of how other development within the watershed should occur to make sure flooding conditions are not exacerbated.

Council discussed the following:

- The 1998 study did not look at the water generated by the 500 acre watershed area;
- Sharing the cost with the township, county and/or developer;
- Assistance from FEMA – it was noted that no FEMA buyouts were available;

Rebecca Hoffman, Tyler Estates resident, expressed concerns regarding the culvert located on Power Dam Road. She stated that it contributes to water flow through the neighborhood and creates problems. The City Engineer will follow up with the County Engineer in this regard.

Brian Grund, Freeberg & Grund, stated that the Phase II Study will provide better topographical data. He suggested that perhaps there are smaller things that can be done incrementally to make the situation better without doing one large project.

Motion by Negard authorizing the Phase II drainage study at a cost of \$23,500. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Motion by Downs, seconded by Negard, authorizing completion of Phase II of the drainage study at a cost of \$23,500 with Bemidji Township contributing \$5,000 and the developer contributing one-third. Motion carried unanimously.

Gray stated that the Tyler Estates residents should not expect any solution constructed in 2009 or 2010 to prevent flooding.

If the developer or township do not agree to pay their contributions, staff was directed by Council to bring back consideration of Phase II.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, seconded by Downs, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk