

Washburn City Commission
Special Meeting
February 22, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Thomas, Kroll, Jacobson, Baumann
Absent: Moran

Thomas called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Thomas asked Auditor Zimmerman if the Sufficiency of Protest had been reached for the 2016 Street Project, she responded no and signed the affidavit confirming the information.

Tom Link addressed the Commission regarding the special assessment process the City of Washburn is currently using and suggested an alternative method per NDCC that allows for the Auditor to figure out and assign the assessments to residents, thus eliminating the Special Assessment Committee. He also questioned whether or not the bids for the project has been placed in the paper, how many more projects the Commission intended to undertake and what the City was prepared to do to help residents with fixed incomes.

Bruce Sailer voiced many of the same concerns and stated that residents deserved a good faith estimate of special assessments prior to the project and that it is impossible to protest a project when there is no idea of the impact it may have financially. He also has concerns over the formula that the Special Assessment Committee uses and the fact that it can change.

Dan Leingang, concerned about warranty work that needs to be done. Klein answered that all warranty work will be taken care of.

Cory Lawson, stating that the letter sent to residents did not provide enough information for residents. Thomas explained that as there are no final numbers it cannot be divided up.

Mike Nelson, Realtor, spoke on the need for a consistency and fairness for the residents and to ensure that there is a full disclosure and accurate record for special assessments.

Kevin Dissell, resident asked about a starting date for construction and the length of time as well as access to his home.

Theresa Madsen inquired about the sidewalk repairs that were supposed to happen last summer but did not. Thomas informed that the bids came in too high so it was suspended until this year when hopefully the bids will be lower. She also asked about any help with special assessments. Thomas told her about the Special Assessment Assistance Program that is available, however, only to those with water and sewer assessments.

Tim Martin, resident, asked why parcels with no services receive the same assessment as those with. Thomas answered that assessments are based off future use as well as current use and reminded him that there is a platted street behind his house.

Dan Foster, resident, explained to the Commission that his mortgage had doubled, making it very difficult for he and his family and furthered that it has changed his life in the prime of his income earning. Thomas stated that it was unfortunate that they lived in a bad spot of town needs a considerable amount of work.

Baumann motioned to approve the Resolution determining the Insufficiency of Protest and seconded by Jacobson. Roll call: Aye, Jacobson, Baumann, Kroll, Thomas. Absent: Moran. Motion carried.

Zimmerman presented the 2015 year end financials for the City of Washburn. She explained a necessary transfer of funds for the Park Board fund stating that this was a budget correction to zero out the account. The transfer was from the General Fund into the Park Fund.

Motion to approve the 2015 year end financials, Jacobson and seconded by Kroll. Discussion: none. Roll call: Aye, Jacobson, Baumann, Kroll and Thomas. Absent: Moran. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Joan Zimmerman, Auditor
City of Washburn