

FORT PIERRE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
January 29, 2018

A special meeting of the Fort Pierre City Council was called to order by Mayor Hanson at 5:00 pm. Members present for Roll Call were Bernhard, Cronin, Gabriel, LaRoche, Ricketts and Weisgram. Officials present were Cromwell, Hahn, Heezen, Thorson, and Tibbs. Others present were: Curtis Rees, Chris Maxwell, Judy Weisgram, Eileen Fischer, Dr. Mike Holland, Randy Seiler, Toby Morris, Bill Fischer, Karl Fischer, Rick Cronin, Brad Taylor and media.

Agenda. Cronin moved and Weisgram seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed on Voice Vote.

Conflict of Interest Declarations. No Conflict of Interest was declared.

Consent Calendar.

Missouri River Bridge Project. Mayor Hanson explained to council that the cities of Pierre and Fort Pierre have been given the opportunity to add enhancements, at the cities expense, to the Lt. Commander John C Waldron Memorial Bridge when it is reconstructed. The construction will begin in 2020 with completion in 2022. She stated that there is 5 years before a payment would be made and she is checking into different avenues such as Game, Fish and Parks, Tourism, and Economic Development for grants to help fund the project. Hahn presented the power point from the engineers that showed both the design of the bridge structure and the enhancements that can be incorporated into the structure. Several enhancement options were presented and discussed, along with the proposed cost of each. The plaza details aren't necessary at this time just the decision to do a plaza or not and the pylons don't have to be included in the plan, they can be added at a later time. The bridge will have a 12 foot wide Pedestrian Trail that can also be used for maintenance vehicles. After the presentation there was a question/comment period. Curtis Rees asked about the access to Dakota Avenue being removed and the safety concerns of not having that route for emergency vehicles to the hospital. Dr. Holland commented that, as CEO of the hospital and trying to attract qualified staff to the hospital, the communities must invest in themselves to create favorable impressions to help attract and recruit people. Eileen Fischer asked if there would be a route on the bridge between the two cities during this construction process and she was informed that there will be. Chris Maxwell stated he felt this was an excellent opportunity to keep investing in the future of Fort Pierre. The historic past was in part due to the river and this project would be a way of continuing to showcase our community and the opportunities the river has to offer. Karl Fischer questioned if the bike path would be affected by the plazas and Hahn assured him that the path would flow through the plazas. Randy Seiler expressed concerns for public safety with areas associated under the bridge if left undeveloped. He encouraged the opportunity to make enhancements in promoting the Fort Pierre tourism plan. Curtis Rees and Brad Taylor both expressed concerns about the safety/liability of the "step downs" to the river from the plazas and who was responsible for the upkeep on the plazas which they were informed would be the City. Bill Fischer stated that one has to think proactively on this capital investment knowing that it impacts the day to day operating fund long term. First impressions are vital to our future, "the cash flow will come". Toby Morris stated the bridge would be a first and last impression and he would be willing to do some research to help find financing for the project. He felt there is currently good momentum for the City and he would like to see that continue. Mayor Hanson accepted the offer of help to come up with a financial plan from Morris and stated the DOT deadline for the enhancements is 3/1/18. Bernhard stated the total cost of the project enhancements is \$2 million to be shared by Pierre and Fort Pierre and the pylons are \$740,000 of this amount. He felt there should be a more economical way of doing the pylons. Hahn said they are currently looking at some different options to reduce that cost. Concern was expressed about the money coming from the street portion of the City budget and it was felt that the City needed to be fiscally responsible as it has needs in the streets also. It was also mentioned that taxes may need to be increased to help fund the project if the enhancements are selected.

Cronin moved and LaRoche seconded to table the Missouri River Bridge Project until the 2/5/17 meeting to get more input from the taxpayers and to allow time to search out funding options. Roll call vote was as follows: Weisgram nay; Bernhard nay; Ricketts aye; LaRoche aye; Cronin aye; Gabriel nay. With the vote resulting in a tie, Mayor Hanson voted aye, breaking the tie and passing the motion.

Adjournment. Cronin moved and Gabriel seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 pm.

Gloria Hanson, Mayor

ATTEST:
(SEAL)

Roxanne Heezen, Finance Officer