

FORT PIERRE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
February 28, 2018

A special meeting of the Fort Pierre City Council was called to order by Mayor Hanson at 4 pm. Members present for Roll Call were Bernhard, Cronin, Gabriel, LaRoche, Ricketts and Weisgram. Officials present were Cromwell, Hahn, Heezen, and Tibbs. Others present were Rick Cronin, Carl Rathbun, and Maria Scott.

Agenda. Gabriel moved and Bernhard seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed on Voice Vote.

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

Missouri River Bridge Project. Mayor Hanson explained the purpose of this meeting was to select the enhancements to the bridge that will be funded by the Pierre/Fort Pierre communities and the financial split for each community. She informed council that a joint meeting was held on 2/23/18 between a few of the Pierre/Fort Pierre Commission members, the Mayors, and City staff to discuss the options each community would like to see added to the bridge and how the cost would be split between the two communities. After discussion of these items, it was determined that another meeting should be held with DOT to clarify the loan information, costs of the enhancements, and the maintenance of lighting. Hanson reported that after their joint meeting with Darin Bergquist SDDOT Secretary, Fort Pierre is not a big enough community to qualify for STP funding, but DOT would make loan on a State project, allowing the City to receive 0% financing for up to ten years beginning one year after completion of the project which is estimated for 2024. The cost of the plaza is not eligible for this financing. DOT made a verbal agreement with the two communities that one lineman could accompany DOT during the Bi-annual inspections of the bridge for maintenance of the lighting. Heezen presented a financial summary of different cost splits for the enhancements. Hanson asked for council input on the project. Weisgram was in favor of the Modified Architectural Lighting, two larger Belvederes, and the Decorative Roadway Lighting. He does not feel the 50/50 split is equitable, but the desire to make the enhancements happen requires give and take. Cronin stated that the "State should build the bridge and we should build our town". He felt that the State should kick in money towards construction as the communities are looking at having to budget for maintenance costs in the future. Ricketts stated to let DOT/State build their bridge. LaRoche stated that agreements between the two communities have been more on a per capita basis and was concerned this could set a precedence for future agreements. Gabriel stated that sharing costs with the Electrical Fund makes sense since the fund has been used in the past to provide street lights for the community, which would leave the General Fund with a minimal economic investment. Bernhard felt the public meetings have showed overwhelming support in favor of the enhancements and that they would be affordable over a period of time. Hanson then asked the public if they had questions or comments. Rick Cronin asked what happens if Pierre doesn't agree to the Modified Arch Lighting. Hanson responded it would be back to the drawing board and negotiations. Carl Rathbun asked if it was more economical to design with the enhancements and then withdraw if the funding wasn't available. Hanson replied, yes that is the case, we would just have to pay the design costs. Maria Scott asked if this would cause higher taxes and Hanson said it shouldn't affect taxes. Weisgram moved and Bernhard seconded to approve the following enhancements: Decorative Roadway Lighting (above Bridge Deck) \$208,000; two larger Belvederes not to exceed \$25,000; Modified Architectural Lighting (below Deck) \$127,000; with the cost being split 50/50 with Pierre for this agreement only and is not to be used as a template for any current or future agreements between the two entities. Fort Pierre will construct a plaza with the expense being 100% Fort Pierre's responsibility. Roll Call Vote was as follows: Ayes: Gabriel, Bernhard, Weisgram; Nays: Cronin, LaRoche, Ricketts. Mayor Hanson broke the tie with an aye vote expressing she didn't feel the financial split was equitable, but didn't want to miss the opportunity to make this investment into the community. Motion passed.

Adjournment. Bernhard moved and Cronin seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm.

Gloria Hanson, Mayor

ATTEST:
(SEAL)

Roxanne Heezen, Finance Officer