

**BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 5, 2023**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Woletz led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER. 2.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine City Council met in a Special City Council Meeting on Friday, May 5, 2023 at 8:00 AM in the council chambers of City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN. Mayor Woletz called the meeting to order with Councilmembers Cary Coop, Patricia Krings, Ryan Ladd and James Evans present.

Also present were City Administrator Meyer, Finance Director Jirik, Community Development Director Smith Strack, Assistant Public Works Director Meyenburg and City Engineer Duncan were present. City Attorney Vose and Police Chief Stier were present via zoom video conference. Wanda Savage served as Video Recording Operator.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, second by Councilmember Krings, to approve the agenda as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS.

4.1. Downtown Water Main.

4.1.1. Resolution 23-064 Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the 2023 Improvement Project.

City Engineer Duncan explained along with surface improvements the 1999 Downtown Project included replacement of watermain, water services and select sanitary services. Duncan explained in scoping the current Downtown Project the intent was to compliment the previous underground work and replace storm sewer, sanitary mainline and any sanitary service work. Duncan noted a minor amount of watermain work was included in the bid as a function of hydrant relocations and potential adjustments. Duncan reviewed curb stops and curb boxes for the project and noted curb stops in the 200 block of North Meridian have been found to be severely corroded and do not permit operation of the curb stops and staff recommend replacement of the curb boxes. Duncan explained during assessing the watermain during the repair procedure the pipe appears also to be subject to advanced corrosion and the overall condition is far beyond that of what would be expected pipe installed just 23 year ago. Duncan explained for this reason full watermain and impacted service line replacement must be considered, additional breaks are dangerous, create emergency shut-off situations, negatively impact the schedule and create a very real risk to the longevity of the improvements as a whole. Duncan explained the whole area has been bid based on the unit price with Ryan Contracting and shown in the presented change order in the amount of \$1,000,450.00. Duncan explained as a comparison the numbers were compared to the next lowest bid and the amount came in at \$1.5 million. Duncan explained typically around \$275,000.00 is budgeted annually for water main work, there was no project in 2022 which will help offset the overall cost.

Mayor Woletz opened the floor for Council questions to staff regarding the engineering portion.

Council held discussion regarding what other items could still come forward increasing costs, how water would be supplied to residents and buildings in the affected area, how the change will affect the project timeline, why the corrosion happened, what preventative measures can be taken in the future, how the change will effect businesses wanting upgrades to their water service and what the ramifications could be if the watermain and curb boxes are not done. Staff explained if no action is taken the long term integrity of the project would be a concern, more emergency shut offs would be a real possibility.

City Attorney Vose explained on the legal side of this project he does not see this change order as an issue as the feasibility report is only an estimated cost and covers unanticipated costs and noted the project would not need to be rebid as it does not meet the criteria to rebid the project.

Mayor Woletz inquired how will the City pay for this expense. Finance Director Jirik explained the water and sewer are enterprise funds which are budgeted annually. Jirik explained the City plans between \$250,000.00 and \$300,000.00 annually for watermain replacements in the annual improvement projects. Jirik noted no project was done in 2022 and money was budgeted in 2022 which offsets the cost by \$600,000.00 which will be paid for out of capital funds. Jirik explained the City has sufficient funding and it will not affect cash flow. Woletz explained the additional cost will not affect water rates but may affect future capital planning. Jirik confirmed.

Mayor Woletz opened the floor for Council to ask funding and assessment questions to Finance Director Jirik.

The Council held discussion regarding assessments and how other issues would be paid for if they occur in other areas of time over the summer. Finance Director Jirik explained the change order would not affect the assessments and noted other sewer or water failures would be paid for within the operating and maintenance budgeted annually.

MOTION by Councilmember Coop, Second by Councilmember Krings, to approve Resolution 23-064 Authorizing Change Order No.1 to the 2023 Improvement Project. Roll call voted was taken. Councilmembers Coop, Krings, Ladd, Woletz and Evans VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

5. ADMINISTRATION.

5.1. Upcoming Tentative Meetings.

1. Planning Committee, Monday, May 8, 6:30 PM.
2. Public Safety, Tuesday, May 9, 7:30 AM.
3. Public Works, Wednesday, May 10, 3:00 PM.
4. City Council, Monday, May 15, 6:00 PM
5. Work Session, Monday, May 15,, 6:15 PM

The Council was reminded of the upcoming tentative meetings as listed.

6. ADJOURN.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans, second by Councilmember Ladd, to adjourn the special session at 8:57 AM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eyrich
Recording Secretary