



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM AT CITY HALL
ONE SOUTH HURON, YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2005
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Farmer called the Council Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Farmer	Present	Council Member Richardson	Absent
Council Member Gawlas	Present	Council Member Filipiak	Absent
Council Member LaRue	Present	Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson	Present
Council Member Nickels	Present	(arrived 7:17 p.m.)	

Moved by Council Member Nickels and support was given to excuse the absence of Council Members Richardson and Filipiak. Motion carried.

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Farmer asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

V. INTRODUCTIONS

Department of Public Works Director Harry Hutchison introduced Kent Early and Marcus McNamara from Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Council received public comments. Audience participation is recorded on audiocassette and is available to the public for up to sixty days following the City Council meeting.

VII. PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. Major Street / Water Main Reconstruction, Harry Hutchison, Director of Public Works

Mayor Farmer spoke about the condition of streets in Ypsilanti. She mentioned the bond issue five years ago that was to be used to repave the local streets, streets that serve the neighborhoods and that do not connect to anything. If there was money left, major streets, connectors to state trunklines, would be repaired. She noted that there is more money left than anticipated, so other WATS eligible streets have been repaired, such as First, Grove, Congress, Washtenaw, Summit, and part of Prospect.

Council Member Gawlas asked for the definition for the classification of streets that fall under the WATS program. Mr. Hutchison answered that if the street is a major collector street then it is eligible for federal highway funds, which is administered through WATS. Mr. Hutchison said he would be looking into whether Mansfield can be designated as a major road qualifying for F-Series money, which is money for industrial park roads.

Council Member LaRue questioned why the cost was so high to repave Mansfield. He asked if this is because its condition makes it necessary to have a total reconstruct of that street.

Council Member Gawlas addressed the timing of the Transportation Improvement Plan. Mr. Hutchison answered that the plans are currently three years but may be extended in the near future.

Mr. Hutchison stated that parts of Forest and River Streets can be reconstructed with the federal highway dollars that are received and with the funding that the city has remaining in 2006.

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson asked if the south side of Monroe Street had been reconstructed. Mr. Hutchison answered that this was still being negotiated. She then asked if First Avenue to Michigan Avenue had been completed. Mr. Hutchison answered that it is close to completion.

Mr. Hutchison explained what the long-range plan is for completing the repaving of the streets. He then explained the Transportation Improvement Plan and how the paving of the streets is prioritized. He informed the group that all of the water mains under the streets had to be replaced as well. He said that all of the streets can be done. However, they can't all be done at once. The streets are prioritized by condition, by water main cost, and by eligibility of funding that the city receives from federal highway.

Mayor Farmer asked if distressed communities receive extra consideration when applying for funding. Mr. Hutchison answered that the funding is provided based on things such as the amount of traffic and what the street supplies, not on distress factors.

Council Member LaRue asked if the EDC has any funds to help in this regard. City Manager Ed Koryzno answered that the EDC does not have any additional funds that he is aware of.

Mayor Farmer asked if concrete would be replaced with concrete. Mr. Hutchison answered that he would like to replace the concrete with asphalt. He said that if it were full length, we would replace concrete with concrete and asphalt with asphalt.

Council Member Nickels asked about applying for industrial park money for Mansfield Street. He asked if the money would be available for 2006 or 2007. Mr. Hutchison answered that he would have to get more information on that. It was determined that it would probably be 2007 before the work would be completed.

Mayor Farmer asked about a section of River Street from Cross Street to Forest Street. She wondered why this section of street was at the bottom of the priority list. Mr. Hutchison explained that it had been moved to the bottom of the list because enhancement money had not been made available. He also noted that its condition was really not deteriorated enough to need a full reconstruct.

Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson asked about Harriett Street and state laws requiring bike lanes. She said that there is currently parking on Harriett Street. She asked if that parking would be eliminated. Mr. Early explained that there could still be parking installed but that it would not be eligible for federal funds. The community would be fully responsible for the cost of installing parking.

Mayor Farmer asked why water main costs differ. Council Member LaRue noted that the amount of housing is different from one side of the street to the other.

City Manager Ed Koryzno explained that Act 51 is the public act that created the gas tax. Ypsilanti receives a certain amount of money each year for local and major streets. He stated that the major street fund is always in much better condition than the local street fund. The city is looking for ways to come up with match money for Mansfield Street that wouldn't inordinately hurt the local street fund balance. There is an effort to enable the transfer of a larger amount of money from major streets to local streets than is currently allowed. If that legislation passes it would assist the city in trying to accomplish the goal of getting South Mansfield paved.

Council Member Gawlas asked about the major roads portion of Act 51 funding. Mr. Koryzno answered that annually the city gets a little over \$1,000,000 for major streets and \$313,000 for local streets. He noted that operation and maintenance eats up a large portion of those funds. Council Member Gawlas then asked what would be left over after operation and maintenance costs were accounted for. Mr. Koryzno answered that for local streets the amount left over is \$600,000. He said half of that is available for construction.

Mayor Farmer asked for a rough estimate of the expense that would be incurred due to the failure of water mains. Mr. Koryzno answered that he had spoken with

Mr. Thomas from the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority. He said that for every million dollars of additional debt it would increase the surcharge by 2.5 percent. He said that there is money existing from the water bond program to assist in replacing water mains.

Council Member LaRue requested a record of all of the debt with the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority to determine whether there is any debt to be retired. He wondered if there is any debt that can be retired to counteract any additional debt incurred.

The group discussed the top three streets to pave for 2006/2007. It was determined that Lowell, Forest and River would be the top priorities. At the same time, the city would pursue re-designation of Mansfield south of Michigan to attempt to obtain F-series funds to repave that street. Mr. Hutchison said the next big challenge would be to obtain funds to replace water mains under the streets.

Council Member Gawlas asked what the scope of the project would be to reconstruct Mansfield from Congress to Cross Street. Mr. Hutchison answered that there would be a total reconstruct of everything inside a right-of-way. This would include curb, gutter, sidewalk, and total utilities. He said this would probably include widening of the street as well.

Council Member Gawlas wondered if the school district would be willing to participate financially. He also mentioned that the school district might be able to provide more leverage with Washtenaw County.

Mayor Farmer suggested holding a meeting in which the city would invite the PTO from West Middle School, the neighborhood that surrounds that school, township officials and the road commission to discuss how to do what's best for the students who attend West Middle School.

There was discussion of speed bumps on Mansfield. Council Member Nickels asked if there are any concessions with regard to safety if there are schools on major roads. Mr. Early answered that he was not aware of any concessions.

Discussion followed of possible streets to put on the top of the priority list for 2007 and 2008. For 2007, it was decided that three segments of Mansfield would be paved. For 2008, it was decided to include Lowell Street, Cross from River to Prospect and Harriett Street.

Mr. Hutchison suggested that there be an annual work session to discuss street improvements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.