

CITY OF FENTON COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

**Monday, April 17, 2017
Fire Department Training Room
205 East Caroline Street
5:00 PM**

Mayor Osborn called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM.

Present: Draves, Grossmeyer, Jacob, Lockwood, McDermott, Osborn, Smith.
Absent: None.
Others Present: Lynn Markland, City Manager; Michael Hart, Assistant City Manager; Dan Czarnecki, Director of Public Works, Cindy Shane, Treasurer; Stephen Schultz, Legal Counsel and Tim Juidici, OHM Advisors.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None.

REVIEW STREET STUDY/FUNDING OPTIONS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS

Tim Juidici of OHM Advisors gave a presentation of the five year road maintenance plan for the City of Fenton and discussed the improvements/repairs that could be made depending on the level of funding available over a ten year period. He reviewed the PASER rating system used to rate the condition City streets with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest. The average rating for City streets is 3.5. He next reviewed the road fixes (and associated costs) planned for the next five years should funding be available.

Council discussed what millage amount should be asked for. Shane stated that five mills, based on this year's taxable values, after the DDA and LDFA capture, would generate \$1.35 million.

Osborn asked if there is a way for the DDA and LDFA to not capture on this millage. Schultz stated he will look into it. Markland stated another option could be to have the DDA and LDFA dedicate funds to streets within their districts. Act 51 monies are also available to help fund road improvements.

Juidici pointed out other work, in conjunction with road repairs are needed including drainage improvements, which will increase project costs. A mix of maintenance fixes have been included in the plans, with dollars being focused on roads that can be preserved.

Shane stated if five mills were approved and levied, a resident's tax bill would still be lower than it was in 2009, before taxable values really started dropping. Smith thinks this is a good example that will help get residents on board with the millage.

Lockwood stated she thinks citizens will want to know how much this will cost them, for what length of time and when their road will be repaired. Markland stated he does not think anything less than five mills will serve the public well.

Czarnecki reviewed the timeline for road repairs. He stated projects that include more work than just surface work are scheduled later in the plan to allow time for adequate preparation.

Council agreed that a high enough millage needs to be asked for that will show significant improvement to road conditions. Osborn asked for millage rates of surrounding cities. She thinks that would be a good selling point to the public if they see how low the City's operating millage is compared to other cities.

Markland commented if a millage is not approved, road repairs cannot be done. Lockwood clarified that any millage passed is earmarked and can only be utilized for the specific purpose it was approved for.

Osborn asked if the City should ask voters for a roads millage or public safety millage. Council consensus was to ask for a millage specific to roads.

Shane asked if a roads millage is passed, is it subject to a Headlee rollback. Schultz responded yes.

Schultz stated there are issues in the City charter that need to be looked at. The charter caps the millage rate at lower than what is legally allowed and there is no charter provision that allows for a winter tax collection; there are many issues with the Charter because it is so outdated. Council discussed the possibility of revising the charter to bring it up to date. Attorney Schultz will continue to look into this issue and report back to Council.

Council discussed the amount of money that would be brought in depending on the millage rate sought. Osborn asked for a consensus from Council as to how many mills to ask for. The unanimous consensus was to ask for six mills. The deadline is in August to submit ballot language to appear on the November 2017 ballot.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE – Stephanie Pytlowanyj, 409 2nd Street, commented the roads in her neighborhood are in horrible condition. She also commented regarding water quality issues at her residence. She stated many people in her neighborhood are upset with recent code enforcement activity that has occurred.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

Mayor Sue Osborn

City Clerk, Renee Wilson

Date approved: May 22, 2017