

**COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009
8:00 A.M.**

Mayor James Fleck – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Present

Council members

Walter Crowder – Present
Nicole Penrod – Present
Donald Sexton – Present
Roger Seymoure – Present
Dan Weigold - Present

The Columbia City Common Council met in special session to discuss the SR 205 Project Coordination Contract with INDOT. All members were present, Mayor Fleck presiding.

Mayor Fleck explained the process began with the hospital in one of their informational meetings with the City in which they discussed their plans both internal and external as it affected the highway and their ingress/egress needs. He advised they looked at what would be needed to make it the safest access possible, make it attractive but without creating bottlenecks. He stressed they needed to create safety, economic viability and promote economic development along the entire stretch of the 205 corridor.

Mayor Fleck advised they could not say what the project costs would be because it is a lesser project than it was and there was an 80/20 grant. He explained the best estimate they could come up with was \$250,000 - \$300,000 for all of the utilities but did not include the redundant electric line to the hospital. He stated with respect to that all of those funds could go to the 80/20 grant. He advised there was a possibility the project may all be funded without a match but explained without the grant the City would pay 100% and except for the redundancy it was our obligation to put the utilities in.

Mayor Fleck explained there were a lot peripheral matters with this project; sidewalks, curbs, moving water lines, electric lines over the park. He advised all of this had to be done irrespective of the hospital project.

Mayor Fleck advised there were separate grant applications going on that involve the Park. He stated those grant applications were under a program called Highway Enhancement and it covers sidewalks, trails, curbs, landscaping and beautification. He explained design plans were in place for a pedestrian bridge connecting the north side of US 30 to Morsches Park. He advised all of these things were connected to the road project. He stated as they talked about that development and the extension of the trail they were able to get the easements necessary to extend the trail to Cider Mill Road. He advised he was not sure it would happen but it also could be covered under the Enhancement grants.

John Meister advised they would be breaking ground on the new hospital July 17. He expressed his appreciation for the support they have received from the Mayor, Jeff Walker, Post & Mail and others. He felt they had an opportunity to improve accessibility and way-finding to 4 potentially 5 major not for profit destination sites including Morsches Park, the Peabody Library, the YMCA, the community center as well as Parkview Whitley Hospital.

Mayor Fleck explained under the terms of the grant we were given 60 days from the initial meeting with INDOT to accept the grant formally and to give authority to proceed. He advised this had to be done before entering into the process of selecting an engineer. Jeff Walker explained the first step after execution of the contract with INDOT would be to put out notice of invitation to potential architectural engineering consultants. He stated once the invitations were received back at INDOT they would look them over and then forward those on to the City and a committee would be established to go through the review process. He explained it was an RFQ process and was very specific in nature that a consultant was not chosen based off of their price but qualifications. He advised once the recommended selection was made it goes back to INDOT for review and approval would be given to enter into negotiations with the potential firm. He advised that was when the price for the design and construction oversight would be established which could be 20% - 25% of the total project costs.

Mayor Fleck stated there was a good possibility that Parkview's project could be our local match.

Mayor Fleck advised they had been pushing the City to get the design completed so that when they start construction they can seamlessly move from Phase I to Phase II. He explained it would move the grant up in terms of completion by one whole year which means we may be in scramble mode for awhile to make it happen.

Walt Crowder questioned if the Project Coordination Contract was approved if it would lock us into the 2.9 million as well as the coordination to go forward to review the engineering. Mayor Fleck understood it would and the failure to approve it would lock us out.

Don Sexton questioned Jeff Walker in the outline he provided numbers of \$418,000 and \$97,000 and if the \$97,000 had to do with the Park. Jeff explained they were trying to gather as much hard data as possible to be able to make a rational decision. He advised the \$418,000 would be for the extension, relocation and upgrade of all of the municipal utilities to service the area not only for the hospital but for improvements to the west side. Roger Seymoure questioned if the \$418,000 would be cost incurred by the City regardless if the contract was approved or not. Mayor Fleck explained that was the amount estimated it would cost but with the grant we would pay 20%. Jeff explained the \$97,000 was for a new entrance to align with Towerview and then internal development at the Park that would tie into the main road that exists as well as a new frontage road for improvements.

Walt Crowder questioned the Terms and Schedules and if the dates reflected the possibility of moving it up a year or if they were based upon the initial agreement. Mayor Fleck advised the agreement they would be entering into was for the 2012 Fiscal Year. Jeff Walker explained we were assured funds in October 2011 and advised David Armstrong, representing the contract,

indicated to us there was good probability we would be able to move forward based off of our readiness so they could seamlessly tie Phase I and Phase II together.

A motion was made by Crowder and second by Seymoure to enter into the agreement presented to them with the DES# 0900422.

Don Sexton appreciated all of the explanations given and understood some of the logic but as a representative of the citizens in which they did not see necessity of the project and felt there were better ways of working with the entrance to the Park he was going to have to vote against it.

Upon the motion, Crowder, Penrod, Seymoure and Weigold voted aye, Sexton voted against.

Having no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle