

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2014 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barna gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

3. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Executive Administrative Assistant Kim McCranie certified a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

Mayor Eric Barna
Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ben St. Clair
Councilmember Scott Bradley
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins
Councilmember Bernard Grant
Councilmember Rob Thomas

Councilmembers absent - None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Barna passed this item.

5. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. Presentation by Staff of the proposed Safe Routes to School sidewalk in the Rolling Ridge Estates Subdivision.

City Manager James Fisher stated that the Safe Routes to School Program provided approximately \$100,000 in funding to construct a sidewalk from Liberty Ridge Park to Oriole Court, along the north side of Rolling Ridge Drive from Parkview Lane north to Oriole Court. This Town Hall meeting was planned to look at this proposed project and to hear from the residents who will be affected. City Staff has tried to address the various questions and concerns raised by the Council and residents.

Mr. Fisher reported that the section of sidewalk between Featherwood Drive and Liberty Ridge Park is a challenge because of the current landscaping. An arborist was on site on this date and recommended that a large Japanese Black Pine be transplanted. Because of the late winter, there is a very small window of time to get the tree moved. The required dirt work to complete the project could possibly damage the root system of this tree along with other large trees located on the site.

The arborist also recommended that if the tree was not transplanted then it should be fertilized with a high nitrogen fertilizer to prepare trees for the stress at least 30 days prior to the beginning of construction.

The proposed sidewalk is to be four feet wide. The staff was also proposing to paint a white stripe approximately 2-3 feet from the curb in the section between Featherwood and Liberty Ridge Park to minimize driving near the curb. Also, this area would be marked as a no parking zone.

Two 125' retaining wall sections would be needed along the edge of the sidewalk on Featherwood which also pose challenges.

The section of sidewalk from Featherwood Drive to Oriole Court meanders along the right-of-way and does not affect any trees. The City would install crosswalks at Featherwood Drive crossing Rolling Ridge and Mayfield Drive across Rolling Ridge with an access ramp to connect to the sidewalk on the south side of Rolling Ridge Drive.

The City also looked at relocating the school zone sign from Featherwood back to Liberty Ridge Park area. A traffic engineer will need to review the regulations regarding school zones.

Enhancing the crosswalks would fall outside the scope of this project which currently is estimated to cost \$122,500.

The Council discussed the additional funding with Mr. Fisher who stated that many of the costs included in the project could be performed by City workers which would reduce the cost and close the gap between the estimated \$122,500 and the \$100,000 allocated for the project by TxDOT.

Mr. Fisher reported that there were approximately 44 homes in this area; however, the number of school children in the area who might use this sidewalk was unknown.

This road was designed as a collector road but was used as both a collector road and a residential street.

The striping on the roadway and any damage to trees and landscaping would be the City's responsibility.

The future growth of the trees in the right-of-way was discussed and Fisher reported that all existing irrigation systems would be relocated in the construction project.

- B. Discussion with City Council, staff and residents of Rolling Ridge Estates concerning the proposed Safe Routes to School sidewalk in the Rolling Ridge Estates Subdivision.

The following residents presented their concerns with the proposed project:

Larry Paul, 221 Lakeside Circle
Angelique Loncar, 222 Lakeside Circle
Rex Ramos, 1313 Mayfield
John & Debbie Malzahn, 1230 Terrace Mill Drive
Svetlana & Rob Mims, 1302 Featherwood
Pam Hyman, 426 Whisperfield
Lynne Clash, President of the Rolling Ridge HOA

The majority of these residents expressed opposition to the section of proposed sidewalk between Liberty Ridge Park and Featherwood. The Japanese Black Pine that the arborist recommended be moved is located in this section, along with other large trees that could possibly be damaged during construction.

Mr. Paul stated that he would be in favor of lengthening the school zone in this area and he was not opposed to the proposed sidewalk from Featherwood to Oriole.

Mr. Ramos expressed his opinion that this was a no-brainer because the funding was from a federal grant and not out of the pocket of Murphy taxpayers.

Many of the residents were concerned with the proposed striping 2-3 feet from the curb to minimize driving near the curb. They felt that the striping would detract from the residential feel of the neighborhood.

Damage to the root systems of the established trees was discussed. They felt that up to 50% of the root systems could be damaged in this project.

Concerns were expressed about the decrease in property values as this project could impact the aesthetics and selling points of the homes in this area.

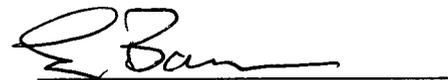
Mrs. Mims asked the Council who would pay for any trees if the trees died as a result of this project. She was assured that the City would replace a like tree if one died from damages from the sidewalk construction.

Mayor Barna thanked everyone for their attendance and participating in this Town Hall meeting. He announced that the City Council would make a decision regarding the scope of this project at the April 1st Council meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

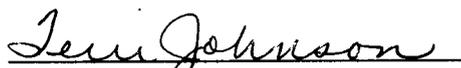
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Eric Barna, Mayor

ATTEST:


Terri Johnson, Interim City Secretary

