

Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the Planning Commission
Wednesday, April 8, 2015

1. Call to Order

Chairman Germayne called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Germayne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Tom Germayne, Vice-Chairman Stu Davis, Mayor Walt Bargaen, John Lengemann, Brian Badder and Ted Sadler.

Absent: Jason Schwab

Also Present: City Manager Tom Youatt; and City Commissioner Al Ramirez.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Davis, seconded by Bargaen, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried 6 – yeas; 0 - nays**

5. Citizens From the Floor - none

6. New Business

A. Review of M-53 Corridor Plan Proposals

City Manager Tom Youatt expressed his appreciation for the Planning Commission's involvement in reviewing the M-53 Corridor Plan Proposals and recommending a vendor to the City Commission. Youatt spoke to the history of accidents along the Imlay City section of M-53 and noted it has the highest accident rate in Lapeer County. Youatt expanded on the traffic concerns of congestion and access and noted that the M-53 Corridor Plan will incorporate a traffic signal study through MDOT. Youatt reported that three proposals had been received ranging from \$15,000 to \$33,900 and he proceeded to point out strengths he identified within all proposals. Youatt added that MDOT is also reviewing the proposals. Youatt noted the change in MDOT philosophy, which no longer deems speed of transportation as the paramount issue, but rather is now focusing on placemaking efforts, traffic calming measures and other strategies to better communities. Youatt described the many stakeholders involved and stated the Planning Commission is key as this is one of the main issues that needs to be addressed.

Mayor Barga asked for a recommendation from Youatt and Youatt responded that either Spicer Group at \$15,000 or LSL Planning at \$18,800 would produce a fine M-53 Corridor Plan for the City, but that Fleis & Vandenbrink at \$33,900 were likely priced out of consideration.

Moved by Barga, seconded by Sadler, to recommend the City Commission award the M-53 Corridor Plan Project to Spicer Group in the amount of \$15,000.

Discussion took place regarding the motion. Commissioner Davis noted that LSL understands where we are going and that Spicer's strengths lie in their mechanical work. Youatt noted the progressive nature of Spicer in terms of the suggested use of technology in their proposal and spoke to the high level of competence exhibited by the main Spicer Planner in his experiences with him. Commissioner Lengemann inquired as to the logistics of using technology in this manner and who would the intended audience be? Commissioner Lengemann questioned Spicer's pertinent experience. Mayor Barga explained his reasoning for moving to recommend Spicer as being the positive past experiences of Youatt with the main Spicer planner. Commissioner Sadler inquired as to whether or not the community was happy after the Spicer planning projects in West Branch? Youatt responded yes. Chairman Germaine noted that previously there had been little pressure placed on consultants to perform. Commissioner Lengemann inquired as to whether Youatt had checked out any of the communities highlighted in the proposals? Youatt responded no and added that he would do whatever it takes to ensure a successful project. Youatt reiterated that either one of the two firms would be a good choice.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Badder, Davis, Sadler, Barga, Germaine

Nays: Lengemann

Motion Carried 5 – yeas; 1 – nays

7. Adjournment

Moved by Lengemann, seconded by Barga, to adjourn meeting at 7:29 p.m. Motion Carried 6 – yeas; 0 - nays

Respectfully Submitted by:

Nicole F. Frost, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: _____