

May 9, 2018

A special meeting of the City of Bertram was held on the above date at 6:00 PM at City Hall. The purpose of this meeting was a work session for goals and planning for the City. Mayor James Drahos was present and presided at the meeting. Council members present were Steve Carpenter, Dave Hunt, Robert Malone, Nancy McBurney, and William Mulholland.

Items discussed:

- Tractor replacement. Jason Houghtaling received appraisal for the City tractor for \$16K-\$18K. A used skid loader, 2012 or newer, is \$35K minimum.
- New City Truck. We will need to equip it with a blade and spreader before winter. Jason Houghtaling provided an estimate of less than \$8500 for a 10' maximum electric v-plow blade, or \$7500 for a straight blade. A new stainless steel, electric spreader is estimated at \$5200. These estimates include installation. In addition to the equipment, we need to get it rust-proofed. Estimate from LineX was \$2000. Jason thinks he can do it for just a few hundred dollars.
- Displaying sign from old Ely Street bridge either at the new bridge site, or at City Hall.
- Update street signs within City limits.
- Is there anything the City can do about the smell from the Cedar Rapids Waste Water Treatment Plant? Malone to research how other cities handle similar situations.
- Nuisance property cleanup, especially in the core part of town, needs to continue.
- Continue to clean up the 33 Ely Street property and pursue options to address storm water drainage.
- High Point Nature Park. 2018 will be a planning year for pollinator plots at High Point – check funding options, map out the area(s), contact DNR and/or Linn County Conservation for info. Malone to check on signage for disc golf holes. Add signage for disc golf and clean up fence line.
- City Park. Pavilion needs to be pressure washed and stained/sealed this summer. Can flush toilets be installed with existing well and without adding a septic system? Relocation and updating of park equipment – McBurney to check on sources for new equipment. Pedestrian Crossing sign for disc golfers.
- Big Creek Road Bridge. Repairs to abutments need to be made in the next few years. City received offer to assist in funding from IDOT but letting would need to occur within three years. We would need clarification if funding would cover restoration or only replacement.
- Streets. Need to look into crack sealing in FY2018 – need estimate from Kluesner for street cleaning, crack sealing, and possible patchwork. Roadside tree trimming will continue this winter along Blaine's Crossing and along 2nd Street. We will need to get estimates for asphalt overlay on all streets in coming years. We can then budget to divide into sections for repaving.
- Annexation of Timberlake and Echo Lake additions. Council reviewed data from 2016 subcommittee research on the pros and cons of annexation. Existing city limits is 900+ acres with property at an estimated taxable value of \$16M. Annexation of just Timberlake addition would increase size to 1100+ acres with property at an estimated taxable value of \$32M+. City would need to have a better understanding the direct costs related to annexation such as legal fees, additional meeting fees for public hearings, etc. We would also need to understand the cost per foot difference between concrete and asphalt street repairs, since both developments have concrete streets where the rest of the city is asphalt. Some residents are concerned their property taxes will go up as a direct result of annexation. The developments' associations would remain responsible for water, septic, green space and pond maintenance.

Carpenter made motion to adjourn. MSB Hunt. None opposed, meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Lisa Berry
Clerk