



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND /PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 18, 2008**

The Community Development/Public Works Committee of the Merriam City Council met on Monday, February 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present included: Chair Gayle Stephens, Councilmember Christine Evans Hands, Councilmember Chad Rowe and Councilmember John Crabtree. Staff present included: Stephanie Dawkins, Interim City Administrator; Dennis Enslinger, Community Development Director; Randy Carroll, Public Works Director, Beth Linn, Neighborhood Services Manager and Judy Devere, Recording Secretary.

Public Items

Chair Stephens noted that she wanted to take this time to thank Chief Bill Lietzke, Merriam Police Department, for the thorough annual report and also to all the people that contributed to it stating it was the best she had ever seen and could be easily understood by all citizens. Interim City Administrator, Stephanie Dawkins stated that Chief Lietzke planned to present his annual report at the City Council meeting.

Chair Stephens stated that she wanted to thank Dennis Enslinger, Community Development Director, for his dedicated service to the city and was sorry to see him leave. She said in her time on the Council, she had never had such thorough reports from anyone on any project and his work had been extraordinary and she appreciated everything he had done, including all the late hours, weekends and he would really be missed.

Chair Stephens and Councilmember Rowe thanked Randy Carroll, Public Works Director, and his crew for their continued good work on the streets and snow removal.

1. Discussion regarding the Shawnee Mission Parkway/Antioch intersection

Chair Stephens said that she had received a couple of calls regarding the short crossing time in the crosswalk and a call about the stoplight and whether they are malfunctioning. Randy Carroll, Public Works Director, replied that the stoplights are based on the camera system and the cameras are mounted on the mast arm and the wind causes the camera to move and it picks up the curbs. He said it was not really a good device in terms of the weather being very windy. Mr. Carroll said the timing was contracted out to Overland Park for Shawnee Mission Parkway but everything

was not synchronized because it is not yet on the Operation Greenlight so there is a backup of traffic. Mr. Carroll said they are out there constantly adjusting the cameras but are looking at solutions to control some of the vibrations of the cameras.

Regarding the pedestrians crossing Shawnee Mission Parkway, Mr. Carroll said the light was set up with a minimum “walk” time of five seconds and a “do not walk” for twenty-one seconds so that a person in the middle of the intersection does not get stuck there. He added that if the “do not walk” was not there, people would go ahead and start walking and if there was a longer walk time, then people would get stuck in the intersection because they are not supposed to walk. In reality, he said it gives a person thirty-one seconds to get across the intersection. Mr. Carroll noted that the volume of traffic that goes through that intersection is tremendous.

2. CIP Monthly Update

Beth Linn, Neighborhood Services Manager, presented the CIP monthly update highlighting Residential Streets Group I Street and Drainage Improvements, 61st Street and Drainage Improvement Project and the 47th Street and Drainage Improvements. Ms. Linn noted that the 61st Street project was originally scheduled for construction in 2005 but was removed from that project while construction was completed on the new Merriam Park Elementary School. In order to receive more competitive construction costs, city staff packaged the construction of 61st Street with Residential Streets Group I. Bid opening will be held on March 6, 2008 at 10:00 AM.

Ms. Linn stated that HWS has submitted 50% plans for the 47th Street and Drainage Improvements and once that review is complete by the City of Merriam and Unified Government, city staff will perform a field check of the plans with the consultant this spring.

3. Discussion regarding 61st Street/Residential Streets Group I Street and Drainage Improvements

Beth Linn, Neighborhood Services Manager, said that when plans are at 95%, the Council is given the opportunity to review those plans and make any comments. Staff requests concurrence to go ahead and bid the project for 61st Street and Residential Streets Group I.

Ms. Linn said that 61st Street was originally scheduled for construction in 2005 with the Campbell project and when the school district announced they were going to do the school, it was delayed to allow construction of the new elementary school and now they are ready to do construction for 61st Street. To receive more competitive bids for construction, staff packaged the 61st Street project with Residential Streets Group I.

Ms. Linn stated that staff is ready to go out to bid on the project and anticipate the bid opening to be in March, 2008. A construction contract would likely be available for council consideration at the March committee and council meeting.

Councilmembers directed staff and the consultant to proceed with final design and bidding of the projects.

4. Consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement with Johnson County for 2008 CARS funding for 49th Street

Beth Linn, Neighborhood Services Manager, stated that in February 2007, City Council approved a resolution acknowledging review and approval of the 2008-2012 CARS application. One of the projects that the City of Merriam submitted for funding consideration was curb replacement and overlay work on 49th Street from Antioch to Switzer.

Ms. Linn noted the funding request has been approved for 2008. Included in the staff report was the Interlocal Agreement drafted by Johnson County. She said the City Attorney had reviewed and approved the agreement.

Ms. Linn said the total costs of construction of this project are estimated at \$420,000. The ILA provides for a financial contribution from Johnson County of 50% of the project costs up to a maximum of \$210,000. The 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Program includes the City match of 50% for this project in Overlay Supplement of General CIP Projects.

COUNCILMEMBER ROWE MOVED TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON COUNTY FOR 2008 CARS FUNDING RELATED TO 49TH STREET AND PLACE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

5. Consider approval of A Resolution acknowledging review and approval of the 2009-2013 County Assisted Road System (CARS) application

Beth Linn, Neighborhood Services Manager, stated that recently Johnson County requested an update for the 5 year CARS program. Staff has met to consider the future needs of the community in terms of maintenance and rehabilitation projects on CARS eligible routes.

Ms. Linn said that projects that are included are 47th Street for 2009 construction and the Shawnee Mission Parkway bridge at Mastin for 2010. She said the City of Merriam applied for federal assistance on this project and received notification from MARC that \$1,200,000 has been awarded for construction expenses through the bridge portion of KDOT's Surface Transportation Program. The remaining construction costs are eligible for 50% funding via the CARS program. Ms. Linn said the West Frontage Road from 71st Street to 75th Street in conjunction just south of the Merriam Pointe development was also included.

COUNCILMEMBER CRABTREE MOVED TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE 2009-2013 COUNTY ASSISTED ROAD SYSTEM (CARS) APPLICATION

AND PLACE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

6. Discussion regarding CIP Department vacancies

Stephanie Dawkins, Interim City Administrator and Dennis Enslinger, Community Development Director, presented the background for this item.

Ms. Dawkins stated that with several vacancies that have occurred over the past couple of months, the CIP Department has probably been hit the hardest because there is currently no one left in that department. She referred to the memo included in the council packets that provided a history of CIP. She noted that with the vacancies, it is a good opportunity to take a look at what might be beneficial and look at some options.

Dennis Enslinger, Community Development Director, provided input regarding the structure of the Community Development Department and CIP Department. He also provided various options for the committee to consider including a seasonal construction inspector, contract engineer, CIP Coordinator Manager, and/or Assistant Community Development Director. Mr. Enslinger noted that if the CIP Department came back into the Community Development Department, it would increase the workload for the CD Director. He said that the CIP functions could be divided into another division and have that person help take some of the work load off the CD Director. Organizational charts were shown to give the councilmembers a visual of how the departments might be restructured.

Chair Stephens stated that in her opinion, the new City Administrator and Community Development Director should have input regarding the restructuring of the departments. There was further discussion of temporary stop gap measures and available resources that could be put in place until that time and the restructuring of the departments.

As requested by the councilmembers, Ms. Dawkins said staff would provide a revised organizational chart along with a job description for Assistant CD Director for the City Council meeting on Monday.

7. Update on development projects

Dennis Enslinger, Community Development Director, provided updates on:

- Pointe at Prairie Haven
- Merriam Pointe
- Merriam Village
- Country Hill Motors sites
- Timber Ridge
- Shawnee Mission Medical Center
- South Park School

8. Consider approval of a Charter for the Johnson County Transportation Cooperation Council (TCC) and designate and appoint one official representative and one alternative representative to serve as members for the TCC

Chad Rowe, City Council member, provided the background for this item stating that in June of last year, Mayor Wilkes asked him to be the representative for Merriam, with Quinn Bennion as the assistant, on the Transportation Cooperation Council and their responsibility was to draw up a charter of rules and guidelines. He said the charter has been drawn up and highlighted portions of the charter noting that the purpose of the agreement is to establish a council of local government representatives for the purpose of addressing transportation plan issues and is not intended to create a separate or independent legal entity. Nothing in the agreement is intended to limit or prevent in any way the authority or the ability of the county or city to plan, manage, approve, build or maintain any transportation route resource or project. He added it is really just to look at general direction.

Councilmember Rowe noted that the function of the committee is to:

- Identify, recommend, promote, and support transportation goals, proposals, projects and issues within the whole community.
- To assist local entities in securing and maximizing transportation related resources.
- The committee would review and provide comment upon any proposals, plans, projects or issues or any additional insight that might be needed.
- Establish and maintain cooperative work relationships within the key community stakeholders.
- Encourage partnering among the cities and county on transportation related design and planning on related matters of land use and zoning on financing and funding opportunities.

Councilmember Rowe noted that it is not just related to rail transportation but was much broader including all types of transportation for long range plans as Johnson County continues to grow. He added that there is no funding necessary initially and what is required is for six cities to approve the TCC and the Interlocal Agreement.

COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE FULL COUNCIL A RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF A CHARTER FOR THE JOHNSON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COOPERATION COUNCIL (TCC) AND DESIGNATE AND APPOINT CHAD ROWE AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AS THE ALTERNATIVE REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE AS MEMBERS FOR THE TCC AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

9. Consider approval of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners to establish a council of local government representatives for the purpose of addressing transportation planning issues

Councilmember Rowe stated this item is the interlocal agreement related to the Johnson County Transportation Cooperation Council Charter.

COUNCILMEMBER ROWE MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE FULL COUNCIL A RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ESTABLISH A COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ISSUES AND PLACE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED FOR ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Deverey, Recording Secretary