

JULY 26, 2021

A Special Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, July 26, 2020 at 5:30 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, David Enke and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, and Lisa Willert were also present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter called the Special meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The Special meeting was called to review/act on a layout preference for Highway 75 (Fremont Street) for the 2027 reconstruction project in the City of Lake Benton. Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council they met with MnDOT on July 12, 2021 and they requested the Council review and discuss the layout options presented to them at the July 12, 2021 meeting. The options the Council recommends will be presented to MnDOT on August 9, 2021.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then asked for discussion regarding the status of allowing parking on Fremont Street, and if so, does the Council want parking on both sides, or just one side. The consensus of the Council was to leave the parking on both sides due to safety issues.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then reviewed the three options MnDOT presented on July 12, 2021:

Option 1 – Reduce the parking lane from 10' to 9', increase the sidewalk width from 5' to the standard size of 6' on the west side of the road, and add a 10' trail on the east side of the road. The Council agreed there is a lot of industrial traffic that goes through town and trucks need the current 12' driving lane. The Council also felt the 10' parking lanes need to remain. The Council inquired if the first block from Benton Street to Bluff Street on Highway 75 is wider than the remainder of the road going south, and was confirmed that it is at least two feet wider. The Council then discussed the size of the sidewalks and stated MnDOT would like to see the sidewalks at a standard 6'. The Council then agreed to extend the sidewalk on the west to 6' and extend the sidewalk on the east to 10'. This will encourage children to use the east side as it is safer for riding bicycles.

Option 2 – Add two (2) 10' trails on both sides of the road, reduce parking to one lane at 10', and two (2) driving lanes at 14' and 12'. The consensus of the Council was not to consider option 2 due to safety issues.

Option 3 – This option is comparative to what is currently in place with two (2) 10' parking lanes, two (2) 12' driving lanes and increase the sidewalk width to the standard size of 6'. The Council agreed to use this option as their preference and increase the sidewalk to 6' on the west and 10' on the east. The removal of snow is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Bumpouts – The Council discussed the issue of speed coming from the south into town and how the bumpouts may reduce the speed. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council the slope of the bumpout is based on the height of the curb which is 5", 4" and 3". The Council inquired if the bumpouts are an issue with snow removal and they were informed the bumpouts located in the downtown area are ruined due to snow removal. The Council discussed the possibility of round-a-bouts and no parking on the east side of the street from Benton Street to Bluff Street. The Council will bring these items up to MnDOT at the August 9, 2021 meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Mark Dunn and carried, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK