

Regular Meeting of the
Committee Of The Whole
08/26/2013

The regular meeting of the Committee Of The Whole was called to order at 6:00 p.m. August 26th 2013 in the Council Chambers of the City of Rock Falls. Present were Alderman Vandersnick, Alderman Reitzel, Alderman Snow, Alderman Kuhlemier, Alderman Watts, and also present were Mayor Wescott, Administrator Blackert, and Clerk Arduini.

Representatives Dave Webber and Brian Schumaker from Wendler Engineering, Bruce Morrow, and Dave Schreiber from SSA Design Group, and Jack Spencer formerly from the RFCDC all spoke about the RB&W District bike path ITEP Grant.

Jack Spencer stated that he recently resigned from the RFCDC board after helping the city and that organization for 10 years. He reminded the committee that the riverfront has served this community for 3 generations, and that we should keep that in mind when listening to the engineers who are designing a riverfront to last the next 100 years.

Dave Schreiber from SSA Design began a PowerPoint presentation highlighting various parts of the project. He showed pictures of the 2009 plan, and the revised 2012 plan including East 2nd St.

Dave Webber displayed many PowerPoint slides with information of how the ITEP Grants works, and the 3 Phases of this plan. He gave the history of this grant starting in June of 2010 when this ITEP money was offered by IDOT. October 2010 the city was awarded a \$300,000 grant which is 80/20 with the city paying costs up front and then being reimbursed by the state. The contractors working on this plan include Wendler Engineering, SAA Design, KJWW Electrical Consultants, McCleary Engineering- Geotechnical, and Sterling Environmental. The current grant will complete Phase 1 and get the city into part of Phase 2. Construction does not begin until Phase 3. In August of 2014 IDOT will be opening up ITEP money for projects again, and Wendler would like to help the city receive this grant with all of PE1 being finished, and ready for submission. Alderman Kuhlemier inquired about a flexible match in which the city does some of the work and this would count towards the city's 20% responsibility. The speaker stated that it can work that way, but not until the final phase. Adm. Blackert asked what construction is included in PE3, specifically referring to the band shell, or roof of the stage, and it was stated that none of that will be included in the finishing of all 3 phases.

A great deal of discussion arose about the size and placement of the parking lot on the North side of East 2nd Street. The design shown to the committee had a parking lot which would

accommodate 80 cars. Mr. Spencer stated that if a development were to come to the area it would be best to sell land at the farthest East point and develop Westerly as the property will be more valuable the closer to Rt. 40. And this would draw traffic through the area as it develops. Alderman Watts questioned if ITEP grant recipients get favor over brand new projects in the next round of funding, and the engineer stated that the State will typically invest in a project that is moving forward and one that they have already made an investment in. Adm. Blackert asked when the Council would have to decide to fund the next 20% for a phase 2 grant, and the answer was July 2014. She stated that the city would need to know the amount it will cost before the next budget is set May 1st.

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that the bike path going along the river between the dams is more feasible than in other areas, because it will not change the height of the water. The question was raised about how much would this project cost total to finish all phases, and the answer was \$4,000,000. Robbin stated that this year's \$300,000 phase of the grant will cost the city \$60,000.

Mayor Wescott informed the committee that a joint meeting of Councils between Sterling and Rock Falls will take place in the council chambers on September 9th at 6:00 p.m.

With nothing else for the good of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.