

**COMMON COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
March 25, 2013**

Present: Schraeder, Peabody (by phone), Werch, Brockman, Klein, Miller, Will

Late: Hansen arrived at 6:52 p.m.

Absent: Pape

Others: City Administrator Rich, Public Works Director Drake, City Clerk Schommer

Council President Schraeder called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Thomas Street Reconstruction Project

Drake explained that in 2014 Thomas Street reconstruction will occur and is looking for guidance from the council as to whether or not council wants to urbanize Thomas Street, which is to upgrade to curb, gutter and sidewalks. State Statute has changed and the DNR if Thomas Street is urbanized will require storm water management or a retention pond. Much discussion ensued regarding best way to provide drainage and where retention pond would be located. Will also stated that there is a safety issue on Thomas Street without sidewalks. Werch inquired why the DNR change. Drake replied that urbanization destroys water quality. Consensus of the Council is to move forward with urbanization of Thomas Street.

Downtown Sidewalk Repairs

Drake stated the plan for sidewalk maintenance in 2013 is the downtown area. Many sidewalks have deteriorated and there is the potential for people tripping or falling. Drake is looking to repair the 100 block of Watson Street. Some of the paving brick have extreme settlement issues and are well below the grade of the concrete sidewalk. Drake also stated that the city normally assesses property owners for half of the sidewalk maintenance cost. Many questions ensued regarding the paving bricks and ways to repair the sidewalks and estimated costs. Council directed Drake to inform property owners in the 100 block of Watson Street that sidewalk repairs will be done in 2013 and relayed they are in favor of doing the work right.

Motion made by Werch, second by Klein to adjourn.

With no further business, Schraeder declared meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Ann Schommer, City Clerk