

The Clear Lake City Council met in special session on Wednesday, August 12th at 5:30 PM in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building with Mayor Lisa Lundberg presiding. Those present were Alderwoman Mona Drake, Aldermen Matt Stormo and Rod Pauli. Alderman Jonas Reppe was present via teleconference and arrived at the meeting later. Absent was Alderwoman Amy Bjerke. Also present were Finance Officer Mary Krueger, Elliott Furman, William Schiefelbein, Jack Drake, Harry Mewherter, Audie Stoltenburg, Josh and Rykyn Streich, Michael Ahlers, Warren Stroschein, and Matt Borg. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and was called to order by Mayor Lisa Lundberg.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Drake to approve the agenda as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There was no one present for public voice on subject matter unrelated to the public hearing.

Mayor Lisa Lundberg opened the public hearing and directed the presentation to begin.

Banner Engineering representatives Landen Buse and Weston Blasius presented a PowerPoint for the street and utility improvements for Phase 1B. This area is the southeast part of Clear Lake from 6th Street south to Lockhart and Prospect Ave to 2nd Ave. The need arises from a drinking water and storm drainage study performed in 2023 and 2024 that reveals deteriorating cast iron pipes and asbestos cement pipes in the area. Current photos from the ongoing Phase 1A project were shown. The city's pipes are generally undersized, and water loss has averaged 24% in the past 10 years from the older water pipes.

Total cost of city-wide improvements for drinking water improvements is \$19.3M; the city's plan is to update in phases. Phase 1B drinking water improvements cost is estimated at \$2.7 million with 6" watermain replacement, along with fire hydrants, service lines, curb stops and appurtenances. State funding has already been secured with a surcharge required of \$9.65 to each resident bill for loan payback.

The storm drain portion of Phase 1B is needed due to localized flooding and surface drainage issues. The plans are based on a study of 5-year and 100-year storm events. Storm drainage improvements cost is estimated at \$2.13 million for new storm sewer pipe, inlets, curb and gutter, valley gutters and ditch regrading. The surcharge for the State funding secured of \$18.85 is required. The City Council has reviewed the rates and lowered the sewer tap fee to absorb the surcharge, so the overall increase was restructured to \$8.85. This will be under regular review.

Many questions were answered at the hearing. There were questions about the Phase 1A current project on drainage and scheduling. Questions were also answered about the overlap of projects, life of pipes and fittings, and on water loss and costs.

The next steps for Phase 1B is the survey process and then bidding in the spring of 2027. At that time, there will be a public open house with the contractor present for residents to receive more details.

The public hearing was then closed. There being no further business, motion by Pauli, seconded by Reppe to adjourn at 6:07 PM. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mary Krueger
Finance Officer

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