

**CITY OF HAMILTON
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE: June 23, 2020

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilors Kemp, Pogachar, Mitchell, Bielski, and West

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Pruitt

NOTE TAKER: Cynthia Fleming, Deputy Clerk

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor, Dominic Farrenkopf, Public Works Director, Donny Ramer, City Planner, Matthew Rohrbach

Council President Kemp opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes from 05.12.2020

Councilor West moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Mitchell seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Items

- **Potential Uses for City Annex Building**

The Councilors were all given plans from the 2011 City Annex building remodel. Matthew Rohrbach, City Planner, reminded Councilors that at a previous meeting the Committee discussed keeping the Annex property. There are operating costs, energy costs, and lawn maintenance to consider. He would like to consider some options to at the very least cover the operating expenses. It would be best to do something before another winter. The Committee has also previously discussed the possibility of a non-profit or a group of non-profit organizations, the Hamilton Downtown Association or even the Bitterroot Chamber of Commerce renting the building. Councilor Mitchell offered that the Chamber owns two buildings on the highway and wouldn't be interested. Mr. Rohrbach is looking for some directions and/or feedback from the staff and council members as to what direction to take with the building. He feel that there is a lack of conference space in the community. One possibility could be a co-working space for non-profits. He is interested in pursuing a creative solution for utilizing the building. The City owns the annex, it is paid for, but one thing, Mr. Rohrbach said, keep in mind is it was paid for with both water/sewer and general funds. Discussion continued including suggestions for an affordable housing unit, a

potential for Ravalli County to buy the building, re-zoning the property and selling it as residential. Mr. Rohrbach said that affordable housing is just one suggestion. Affordable housing projects have been suggested for other properties in town. An additional thing to consider is the transitional buffer between your primary business zone and pure residential. Councilor West thinks that a good first step would be see if the County is interested and get an appraisal.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Rohrbach will explore these options, including confirming the accuracy of the operating costs with Financial Administrator, Craig Shepherd and move forward on getting the property appraised

- **Bike Walk Bitterroot Request to Paint Muraled Cross Walks at the Intersection of State Street and 4th Street**

The Committee members were provided a conceptual drawing of the muraled crosswalk that is being proposed by Bike Walk Bitterroot for the intersection of 4th and State Streets. Organization representative, Amy Fox, told the Committee that Bike Walk Bitterroot is interested in partnering with the City and the County to highlight areas used by pedestrians and bicyclists. They would like to begin work on the 4th and State intersection in early August, with work beginning on a Saturday evening to have the street open and ready for Monday. They would like to make it a community project with kids helping. Ms. Fox said that there are a lot of different paints that people use for these projects. She can't say how long the paint will last but they are aware that it will show wear and fade over time. They plan to reach out to local property owners in the area, the County, the library and O'Hara house to let them know about the project. The fire department would need to be identified. Councilor Bielski commented that it is an awesome idea and brings some art into our community. Ms. Fox offered that the project is something that is new for us too and it will need to be pulled off quickly, to interfere as little as possible with traffic. Mayor Farrenkopf wants to know if you paint between the white crosswalk lines and are the white lines there to definitively show where the crosswalk is. Donny Ramer, Public Works Director commented that there will be white lines. The lines help slow people down. Councilor West asked if they considered any other designs options for the crosswalk. Matthew Rohrbach commented that the concept was to include a lot of the outdoors elements of the community, fishing, hiking, etc. Councilor Kemp doesn't think that anyone would have an issue with the muraled crosswalks. She also commented that over time it will fade and depending on the type of paint that is used. She hopes with help and support from the community that it will come together. Ms. Fox feels that the design will be nice and simple, but it will make the intersection more visible. It may be possible to have murals in other areas not necessarily just intersections. There are a lot of organizations that might take a project like this on. She noted that in the long term it will be nice to see how long they last. Bike Walk Bitterroot doesn't want to over commit, but they are looking at other high traffic areas on Ravalli and Daly Avenues.

Councilor West moved to send the proposal for Bike Walk Bitterroot to paint the crosswalks at 4th and States Streets. Councilor Bielski seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

Move to City Council for approval.

Non-Agenda Items:

Councilor West inquired if there were plans to refresh paint on the share the road emblems. Donny Ramer replied that it is coming up. We have yellow paint right now, so it will be yellow.

Councilor Bielski has observed that benches in the City are falling apart. Mr. Ramer commented that those benches are \$75 from Trapper Creek Job Corps. He would like to get the Job Corp benches again, but will need to wait until they are back up and running.

Councilor West asked about the turn signal at 1st street and Main She feels that there are some stop light issues. Mr. Ramer responded that Montana Department of Transportation, (MDT), just did traffic counts in October and he doesn't think our traffic has increased enough to warrant MDT doing another traffic count. Mayor Farrenkopf asked if they could do a window of time. Mr. Ramer replied that everything is connected going down Highway 93, but he would be willing to bring it up with MDT again.

Councilor West wondered if it would be helpful for police to have a camera on the top of the building at the Justice Center.

Councilor Pogachar asked what the status is of the Spring Cleanup program. Director Ramer responded that he is working on hiring a seasonal. We currently only have basic staff. We are trying to get some seasonals. We have reached out for help from service clubs unsuccessfully. Residents can take their yard waste to the street shop on St. Mary's Avenue.

Councilors West and Kemp were at American Legion Park and they observed that if the shade structure came off the other side it would also provide shade on the west side. Mr. Ramer responded that we are looking at doing a Capital Improvement Project and that we hope we can work with the Council and the Mayor to figure out things we would like to see get done. We are also going to need to replace playgrounds at American Legion and River Park. We need to save money to make this happen.

Topics for Consideration at a Future Meeting

Matthew Rohrbach, City Planner, has been looking into public meeting software People's Speak. At some point he will do a presentation with members reviewing it beforehand and submitting questions.

Adjourn

Councilor West moved to adjourn. Councilor Bielski seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.