**City of Marine City**

**Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 16, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Infrastructure Committee was held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 260 S. Parker Street, Marine City, MI 48039 and was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson Jacob Bryson

**Present: Chairperson Jacob Bryson, Committee Members Trent Attebury, Michael Itrich, Joseph Moran, City Commissioner William Klaassen; City Manager Holly Tatman; City Clerk Shannon Adams**

**Absent: Trent Attebury**

Motion by Committee Member Itrich, seconded by Committee Member Moran, to excuse Committee Member Trent Attebury. All Ayes. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**Approve Agenda**

Motion by Committee Member Moran seconded by Committee Member Itrich to approve the Agenda. All Ayes. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**Public Comment**

No residents addressed the Board.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

Road Millage Discussion:

City Manager Tatman stated she wanted to begin the discussion related to a road millage to be put before the voters at the November election as the chief complaint recognized during the recent budget meetings was related to the road conditions. City Manager Tatman referenced attending the Saint Clair County Transportation Study (SCCTS) Meeting where she learned that there was no available money for road projects and it was unknown if and when future funds would be available, therefore to get road projects done, a millage would be necessary.

Committee Member Itrich indicated a previous attempt to pass a millage failed in part due to competing mileages on the ballot. Chairperson Bryson stated the failed millage was for 2 mills which may have been too aggressive.

Committee Member Itrich referenced existing road project estimates and indicated in the current economic climate, all of them needed to be increased by approximately 30%. City Commissioner Klaassen inquired about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. City Manager Tatman responded that she wanted to present a discussion about the ARPA funds at a forthcoming City Commission meeting, however the amount available would only do one city block worth of road or approximately 900 feet.

Chairperson Bryson inquired as to how many roads could be milled and capped. Committee Member Itrich cited several potential projects which included sections of Scott Street, Gladys Street, Metropolis Street, 3rd Street, North 4th Street and North 2nd Street which ranged in estimate from $60,000.00 to $450,000.00 before the approximate 30% increase. Committee Member Itrich stated he preferred to do more than one street project at a time which could result in a better deal financially.

Chairperson Bryson inquired if road money could be used for a piece of a project that required underground infrastructure as well. Committee Member Itrich explained that it could be used for the top layers as transferring funds between the major and local road funds was permissible however, spending all of the money in those accounts could pose issues in the future as the State was pre-warning communities about gas and weight tax cuts and that would leave no funding for unexpected repairs.

Chairperson Bryson mentioned that should a millage be passed, once the easier projects were out of the way, the fund money could be used later to continue progress on road projects. Committee Member Itrich explained that there were roads like Woodworth where it would cost approximately $600,000.00 including water and sewer infrastructure to do half of the road and that to do the curbs and sidewalks the money could be pulled from the local street fund.

Committee Member Moran suggested developing a list of roads grouped by repair type and estimated cost, review existing funding, including incoming guaranteed funds, investigate grant options, and then look at millage options to determined how much to ask for. He also stated it would be important to determine if there were other millages being requested in November and what millages were due to fall off the rolls.

City Commissioner Klaassen suggested the ARPA money was required to be used for infrastructure. City Manager Tatman explained that the ARPA funds were a one-time $400,000.00 payment from the Federal government that was broken into two distributions and it could be used for more than infrastructure. She indicated that to an individual, that amount seemed like a lot of money, however it was important for residents to understand that for road projects, it was not, and without passing a millage, the City would be forced to wait to do road projects.City Manager Tatman further illustrated that this was not a problem unique to the City, that other communities were faced with the same difficulties of having to create their own road money because there were no funds available from other sources. She also mentioned that the County had eleven road projects planned which they had to cut back to five due to increased costs and lack of funding.

Chairperson Bryson stated a need to understand what a millage for 1 mill would bring in versus 2 mills and recommended keeping any millage proposal as modest as possible, particularly due to the existing rate of inflation.

Committee Member Itrich stated that PCE had quoted four roads on March 22, 2022 which included Alger, Holland, Pleasant, and Woodward and the price at that time, before the approximate 30% increase, was $2.4 million.

City Commissioner Klaassen inquired if the large road project done in the later 1970’s to early 1980’s was done through a millage. City Commissioner Hendrick (from the audience) reminded the Committee that project was achieved through special assessment districts where the homeowners were charged for the footage that was paved in front of their homes. City Manager Tatman stated that special assessment districts were also an option rather than a millage, though the idea was not likely to be well received by the community.

Committee Member Moran suggested putting all of the data together on paper to communicate to citizens the financial situation related to getting roads done and the need for a millage or special assessment districts.

Chairperson Bryson reminded the Committee that if a millage was approved, it would be necessary to do a project right away to show good faith as citizens don’t generally understand the waiting process for millage funds to build. Committee Member Itrich stated that he could get a good price for just milling and capping if a length of connected roads were done all at the same time. Committee Member Itrich also mentioned that it would be possible to take money from the general and street funds then pay the money back from the millage.

Committee Member Moran suggested floating a bond and City Manager Tatman referenced that the USDA had bonds with nearly 0 interest. Committee Member Itrich questioned whether the City wanted a 20 to 40 year commitment required for a bond.

City Manager Tatman recommended that the Committee utilize the old spreadsheets as a template to input updated numbers to compare to the fund balances and hypothetical ARPA funds then bring it back to the Committee to review and discuss. City Commissioner Hendrick (from the audience) stated it was her opinion the last road millage failed due to the wording which gave the impression to citizens the money could be used for projects besides roads. She further cautioned against using the ARPA money for anything besides roads because it would give citizens the impression that the City could have used those funds for roads but, instead, asked for a millage, and that it was a bad time economically to ask people to agree to a millage.

City Commissioner Klaassen suggested conducting a survey to see if residents would support special assessment districts. Committee Member Moran indicated that the climate of the populace seemed to support roads over parks. Commissioner Hendrick (from the audience) suggested the community would love a waterpark if the decision was to use the ARPA funds for something other than roads. Committee Member Itrich stated that there were other grant opportunities for parks.

Chairperson Bryson reiterated Committee Member Moran’s suggestion to collect all of the data, reduce it to paper, and bring it back for further discussion at a future meeting.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Committee Member Moran, seconded by Committee Member Itrich, to adjourn at 6:14 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon M. Adams

City Clerk