

**Barnesville City Council
Special Meeting
April 21, 2010**

Mayor Dahnke called this special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Mayor Dahnke and council members Larry Davis, Jr., Darin Allmaras, Jeremy Krause, Del Ellefson, Jason Rick and Merlin Strom. Others in attendance were City Attorney John Shockley, City Administrator Mike Rietz, City Clerk Jeri Reep, EDA Director Karen Lauer, Public Works Supt. Dave Riddering, TEC Manager Guy Swenson, Dan Hanson with Ulteig Engineers, and Pam Aakre with the Record Review.

Mayor Dahnke asked City Administrator Mike Rietz to take roll call.

Mayor Dahnke stated the next item on the agenda was the pledge of allegiance. All rose to recite the pledge.

Mayor Dahnke stated the only item on the agenda was the discussion on the Front Street (CSAH 52) Reconstruction project.

Mayor Dahnke next welcomed those present for the meeting. Mayor Dahnke stated that those wishing to speak, that there is a sign-in sheet on the podium, and he would limit the speaking to three minutes for each person.

Mayor Dahnke next called on EDA Director Karen Lauer. Mrs. Lauer discussed the history of the assessment policy. Mrs. Lauer stated that this policy is to guide the council and staff in a fair and economical manner. The assessment policy was adopted in October 2007. The front street project will be the first time this policy will be used.

City Engineer Dan Hanson next described the front street project in detail. Mr. Hanson stated that this project has been ongoing since 2004. Mr. Hanson stated the preliminary assessment hearing will be held on May 17, 2010 at the Elementary School. Mr. Hanson stated that Clay County is cost sharing this project with the city. Mr. Hanson stated that tentative dates are that in January 2011 the city will advertise the bids, and award the project in March, 2011.

City Attorney John Shockley next discussed the procedure and process of the front street project. Mr. Shockley stated at the preliminary hearing, that citizens can ask questions, and council will decide to proceed forward or not. The cost of the project will be spread out over 20 years.

Mayor Dahnke next opened up the meeting for questions.

Mr. Raymond Peppel questioned why agricultural land is assessed. Mr. Peppel felt that the whole city is involved in this project.

Ms. Barbara K. Carlisle, 102 3rd Street SE, questioned how many people will be assessed. Ms. Carlisle stated that people are here tonight for the facts. Ms. Carlisle stated that the Main Street do-dads have to go.

Mr. Brian Ellefson questioned how un-developed agriculture land would be assessed.

Mr. Shawn Olson, 1003 5th Street SE, stated that Front Street is a main artery, that the infrastructure needs to be done, but the assessment should be the entire city.

Mrs. Cathy Enstad, 305 8th Ave SE, stated that the Front Street is used by everybody, and the special assessments should be the entire town.

Ms. Ruth Whitten, 105 4th Street SE, felt that the special assessment should be to the entire city. The Mayor and council need to re-think this assessment.

Mr. Jim Braton, stated that the Main Street businesses are struggling, that the project should be assessed city wide, put out to people how the assessment should be assessed out.

Mrs. Kathy Mostue, 623 3rd Street SE, questioned if the assessment is turned over city wide, would all future assessments be city wide, she felt that the way that it is being assessed is a fair way of doing it.

Mrs. Jean Carver, 220 3rd Street SE, stated she was there for St. James Church, stated that this will be a real burden on the congregation, that the council and mayor need to look at the faces of people here.

Mr. Mitch Landphere, 319 3rd Ave SE, questioned why we need the fancy lights, that it is a waste of money.

Mr. Dana Seefeldt, 220 3rd Ave. SE, stated that we are talking about the Main Street in Barnesville, 390 older homes and now adding an assessment, how are they going to sell their homes, that the value will go down.

Mr. Dave Renecker, 902 4th Street SE, had several questions about the assessment policy, felt that the assessment should go city wide.

Mr. Gene Prim, 602 9th Street SE, stated that he took exception to some comments at the March 23rd meeting. There has been a policy in place since 1988. Mr. Prim question on the types of road, told that Main Street is a Type 2, but could be a Type 3. Mr. Prim stated that the city paid for the following projects, without assessments: East city limits road, 8th Ave. SE, Street by Blue Eagle, Street west of Reed Field, Hwy 9 re-build. The rebuild of 2nd Ave SE is close to this project. Mr. Prim felt that the proposed way of special assessments is simply not fair.

Ms. Lisa Damon, 304 4th Street SE, stated that she is a renter in town, loves the town. Questioned why this project cannot be a city wide assessment.

Mr. DeLyle Fankhanel, 710 Front Street South, stated that the city is driving him out of town, that everyone drives down Front Street, said that his place is for sale.

Ms. Jane Larson, stated that she would like to see this assessment put to a vote, majority rules. That would be the fairest way to handle it.

Mr. Steve Montplaisir, 123 5th Street SE, stated that he is getting double dipped on his specials.

Mr. Jarred Julsrud, 211 4th Street SE, questioned what the amount will be, not a problem paying for his share.

Mrs. Theresa Renecker, 902 4th Street SE, stated that they have 250 feet in front of their home, that this is a third generation home.

Mr. Phil Trowbridge, 208 3rd Street SE, stated that people made some good points, that the project will get paid somehow. Thanked the council members and staff, and he appreciates it.

Mrs. Eileen Plath, 705 9th Ave SE, stated that she totally agrees with Phil Trowbridge.

Mr. Jon Braton, 1004 11th Ave SE, stated that if we don't keep our Main Street looking good, it's not going to attract people.

Mrs. Phyllis Peppel, stated that they are near Green Acres, questioned if they will be paying for one parcel.

Mayor Dahnke asked if there were any other citizens that wanted to speak. There were no other citizens to speak.

04-21-10-01 Motion by Mr. Davis and second by Mr. Ellefson to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Attest:

Jeri L. Reep
City Clerk

Fred Dahnke
Mayor

