

CITY OF NEW MEADOWS TEMPORARY ROADS AND STREETS
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
AT 6:30 PM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 401 VIRGINIA
STREET, NEW MEADOWS IDAHO

Present at City Hall were the members of the Roads and Streets Committee: Doug Deasy, Doug Buys, Johnny Brown, and Ken Crogh. Also present was New Meadows City Council Member Josh Carr and Mayor Julie Good. City Staff present was Hunter Brown. Public present was Drew Dodson and Philip Good. Grae Harper of Keller Associates was present by phone.

Mayor Good called the meeting to order and noted the meetings of the committee would be operated under open meeting law and would be less formal than regular City Council meetings.

Council Member Carr started the conversation by stating what he felt the purpose of the meeting should be. He stated that he recognizes the city does not have much money toward roads, but there are people in town with lots of experience and he hopes to select one road and see what it would cost to pave that road. Doug Buys said no road was better than another and paving without doing the base work, drainage and infrastructure work would result in paving that would not last. Doug Deasy agreed.

Doug Buys expressed his dislike for working with engineers and reminded the committee that Peterson Memorial was constructed for only \$150k without an engineer. He feels like grants are fine but should never be consider in the budget as funding that can be counted on. He wants the city to implement a local option tax and local improvement districts to cover the costs of the street work, as well as applying for grants as they come available. Johnny Brown noted that most people would not feel it is their responsibility to pay extra for roads, since they believe that is the city's problem.

The budget for streets was distributed and it was noted that \$32,000 is all that is budgeted for M&O. The cost of dust abatement was also discussed. Doug Deasy noted that if a roller is used on the roads, the dust abatement seems to be more effective.

Mayor Good noted that the City actively considering a Local Option tax possibility but the current State Code has a definition of a resort city that will not apply to New Meadows. The City is working on getting information from other cities who have a Local Option Tax but are not destination locations.

There was discussion about the need for stormwater drainage and a solid base before any roads are considered finished and then would be ready for asphalt if that ever was a consideration in the future.

Grae Harper noted that there is a federal grant available for S Commercial and Heigho that the city will be applying for. The grant is for up to \$2 million and has only a 7.34% match. He noted that the LHTAC Construction grant was for shovel ready projects and there were others in the PAWG group that had project more ready and rated higher in the grant scoring for this year. He said the city will also be applying for the Sign grant from LHTAC this year.

There was discussion about volunteers working on the roads. Mayor Good will look into the legal and insurance side of volunteers. There was also a discussion about not needing to put projects out for bid if they are under \$100,000. Johnny Brown noted that as soon as projects are put out for bid, the price increases. Ken Crogh said he would be willing to bid low in order to get the contract and help the city out.

The discussion continued with the idea of doing one block of road at a time. Doug Buys was asked if a block of road could be done completely, without asphalt, for \$30,000 and he answered affirmatively.

There was much discussion around asphalt vs dirt roads. Grae Harper noted that the cost to maintain asphalt roads would be \$126,000 a year for the city. The consensus seemed to be toward gravel roads at this point.

There was ongoing discussion about volunteer help and thinking outside the box as the only way the road situation would be fixed. The need for a roller to be used whenever working on the roads was also discussed.

Grae Harper stated that the conversation was a very good first step in seeing the street projects accomplished. He noted the need to consider impact fees with developers so there the new developments don't add to the existing issues.

Mayor Good confirmed that the regular meeting time of the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm would work for the Committee. Meeting was adjourned.