

AMERY SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
June 15th, 2021

The Amery City Council met on June 15th, 2021 at the intersection of Birch and Keller Avenue as well as City Hall and via Zoom. Mayor, Paul Isakson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call: City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer, Patty Bjorklund conducted Roll Call.

Present: Mayor, Paul Isakson, Council President, Chad Leonard, and Alderpersons: Sarah Flanum, Tim Strohbusch and Eric Elkin.

Absent: Alderperson, Rick Van Blaricom for the “in-person” part of the meeting at the intersection of Birch and Keller Avenue. He was present when council reconvened at city hall at 6:28 p.m.

Staff Present: City Administrator/City Clerk-Treasurer, Patty Bjorklund; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Ben Jansen; and Public Works Director, Jeff Mahoney.

Others Present: Drew Lindh, MSA; Eric Barclay, MSA; Dave Rasmussen, MSA; Larry Stelter, Videographer, as well as members of the public.

Public Comment:

Eric Barclay of MSA started with allowing the public to interact with MSA and the members of the council as well as city staff, regarding questions about the sidewalk concerns they had. He started by explaining the project and drainage requirements to avoid flooding in the area from Birch Street North and South. He noted changes to certain areas of the curb and sidewalk that was incorrect need to be made good due to a surveying error on MSA’s part. It is approximately 250’ from Ellie’s and the Thrift Store to the north. He had concerns changing the scope of the project from the plans to avoid drainage issues on Keller Avenue and ponding in certain areas of the sidewalk. If the road was changed significantly, and storm sewer drains were to be put in heading north from Birch, the road would be very up and down and would have the “roller coaster” effect. The public had many comments, and did not like the extreme slope in the non-walkway areas from the sidewalk, deemed non-walkable paths according to ADA standards. They felt that there would be too many people falling there who are handicapped due to the grade and not being able to distinguish between sidewalk and the non-walkable path. Eric went on to explain that there are dedicated handicapped areas located at each intersection in the boulevard area for people with wheelchairs, walkers, etc. who could gain access onto the sidewalk. The other concerns were ice in the winter and slush. The public was very concerned about slipping and falling in the bike lane trying to get to the handicapped area or walking onto the non-walkable area. Traffic along the route (bike path area) was a concern. The handicapped pedestrians worried about getting to the handicapped ramp with traffic right next to them. Liability was concern. Options to help with the problem were: handrail, different colored concrete in the non-walkable area, different surface treatment such as (grass, grouted rocks). Instead of a 4’ boulevard have a 6-8’ boulevard, steps into businesses and/or onto the sidewalk and placement of storm sewers that are not in place in the problem areas. After much discussion on the topic; Mayor, Isakson closed the Public Comment period to reconvene at City Hall to finish the meeting at 6:28 p.m. The meeting reconvened at city hall at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Bjorklund/WCMC/CMC/CMTW
City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

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