

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, MAY 8, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Worthington Fire Hall by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following Council Members present: Larry Janssen, Alan Oberloh, Chad Cummings, Amy Ernst, Mike Harmon.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Justine Wettschreck, KWOA; Karl Evers-Hallstrom, Daily Globe; various interested citizens.

OXFORD STREET MEDIAN DISCUSSION

Forrest Hasty and Brett Paasch from MnDOT were at the meeting for the discussion regarding the Oxford Street medians. Mr. Hasty provided an overview that included the following: Public Involvement So Far, Definitions, Current Traffic Volume Comparison, Conflict Point Analysis, Information regarding 41st Street in Sioux Falls, SD, Summary, and what the next steps will be.

Regarding the request that MnDOT had received for five traffic lanes and no medians on Oxford Street, Mr. Hasty and Mr. Paasch both cited data regarding current traffic volume comparison, access density, crash rate index, and addressed conflict points along the street. When residents at the meeting spoke in favor of removing the medians - noting that 41st Street in Sioux Falls, SD does not have them and it works - the MnDOT representatives presented crash and access information on 41st street, and future plans from their traffic engineer to start installing medians on that street. They also noted that access density on 41st Street in Sioux Falls is lower than Oxford Street in Worthington.

Mr. Hast and Mr. Paasch reiterated several times that MnDOT will not remove the medians on Oxford street because they know accidents will increase and people will get hurt. The only way to change that would be for the City or the County to take over MnDOT's portion of the road, which is the Highway 59 portion from Highway 60 to Humiston Avenue, then it would be up to them. However, they are like sections, and access density goes from 13,000 on the MnDOT portion, to 10,000 all the way up to Diagonal Road. Mr. Hasty said the statistics will be the same. Dwayne Haffield, City Engineer, noted that the Humiston Avenue to McMillan portion County State Aid section of Oxford Street is included in the considerations discussed at the MnDOT meetings for continuity, and is scheduled for 2021 or earlier. McMillan to Diagonal Road is not yet on the schedule for reconstruction.

Mayor Kuhle noted that the meeting needed to be adjourned for the start of the regular City Council meeting and thanked Mr. Hasty and Mr. Paasch for their time and information, and asked if perhaps they could stay to answer any further questions that those in attendance may have.

ADJOURNMENT

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The motion was made by Council Member Janssen, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk