

The Jewell City Council met in Special Session Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at the Jewell City Hall starting at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Leo Reiter called the meeting to order with Council Members: Winborn, Roethler, Boor, Gunderson and Lorenzen present. City Attorney Justin Deppe was also in attendance.

APPROVE OCTOBER 25, 2023, SPECIAL AGENDA: Lorenzen made a motion to approve the October 25 special agenda. Boor seconded the motion. Roll Call 5—0. Motion carried.

CHANGING THE SCOPE OF THE MAIN STREET PROJECT TO INCLUDE THE PORTION OF SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF 600 MAIN STREET: The sole purpose of this special meeting was to decide whether to amend the Main Street Project to include the sidewalk in front of 600 Main Street. There were many things that needed to be considered in order to give the engineers and bonding attorneys direction on how to proceed with the project. It was assumed from the Mayor and Council that the section in question was part of the project from the beginning. The engineers did not add it into the Main Street project because they were a part of a separate project done in 2017 that replaced that section of sidewalk using a USTEP Grant. During that project, they had difficulty tying into the foundation. The engineers also felt like the sidewalk is currently good shape. The City had received federal funds (USTEP) in order to complete that 2017 project and it is unknown whether those federal funds will have to be reimbursed from the City.

If the Council decides to add in that portion of sidewalk (600 Main) and assess the owner accordingly, there will have to be another public hearing, which would push the project back about two months. Additional cost to the project would include: publishing cost, additional engineer fees, attorney fees and an increase in cost to the project itself. Council and residents in attendance had varying views on the condition of the sidewalk in question and whether they believed it logical and fair to replace it. Some thought it may not tie in to the new cement well and stand out as an eyesore. While others believed there was no point in tearing out perfectly good sidewalk.

After much deliberation, Lorenzen made a motion to proceed ahead with the project without adding the additional sidewalk to the project. The motion died for a lack of a second motion.

The Council decided that they needed exact numbers of the cost increase and further information in order to make the best decision possible. At the next Council meeting scheduled November 13, they will decide if the portion of cement in front of 600 Main will be added to the project and if the owner will be assessed the 80% portion of the cost of cement.

PUBLIC FORUM: Some members in attendance did not want to delay the project and were comfortable proceeding without adding the cement in, while others thought it wise to slow things down a bit in order to do the project correctly. Street lights were brought up as a point of conversation. If the City were to get new poles it would be a visible improvement to the whole town. Others think the cost is too extravagant and unnecessary. If Alliant lights were used, there are only two options, however we would be allowed to paint them if we wanted to.

ADJOURN: Roethler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Winborn seconded the motion. Roll Call 5—0. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Regina Beaune, City Clerk

Leo Reiter, Mayor