**City of Nashua**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall**

The Nashua City Council met in special session on December 10, 2019 in Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with Mayor Betsinger presiding. Council members present were Scott Cerwinske, Angelina Dietz-Robinson, and Thomas Johnson. Harold Kelleher III and Rolland Cagley were absent. City employee(s) City Clerk John Ott and Water/Waste Water Superintendent Nick Henningsen were present as well as representatives from IIW Engineers and INRCOG (Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments) who were there to present information on the Greeley St. Project. There were several citizens in attendance as well.

Mayor Betsinger asked for consideration approving the agenda. Dietz-Robinson Motioned. Cerwinske Seconded. Motion Carried.

Jon Lutz and John Berns from IIW Engineers were there to discuss the flooding problems on and around Greeley Street and present some potential solutions. The Mayor and Council along with the Nashua Plainfield School have been working with IIW Engineers developing solutions to eliminate the flood problem. IIW Engineers explained several different options from putting in permeable pavers along the side streets where there is parking, but not a lot of heavy traffic; bioswales which are linear channels designed to concentrate and convey stormwater runoff while removing debris and pollution. These are typically vegetated, mulched, or xeriscaped and consist of a swaled drainage course with gently sloped sides; rain gardens were briefly mentioned; and possibly rain water harvesting at the school for educational purposes. These are some of the “green” options that the city and school could utilize which have the benefits of being more environmentally friendly and more grant funding opportunities are available. The downside is the continual maintenance and upkeep. There is also the base option which is your traditional drainage ditches and cement culverts. The city is considering the different options to determine which option would be best suited for its needs, keeping in mind the long and short term benefits and costs. IIW also reviewed some of the cost projections with the council. The project costs are estimated to be around $1.7 Million. The City has been awarded an STBG grant in the amount of $500,000 in FY2023 for the project, but that still leaves $1.2 Million left to fund. The $1.2 Million cost would be the cost to the city to do the traditional option after the STB grant is applied as there are not many other grant options available to help with offsetting the remaining costs using this method. If the Council elects to use some of the “green” options than it opens up more grant funding opportunities. The projected cost after taking into account some of the grant opportunities are expected to be around $1.1 Million dollars; however with grants it is never a guarantee that the city would receive any or all of the grant $’s that are applied for. The good news is that the City does have some time to secure some other funding as the project isn’t slated until FY2023.

Bryan Schoon from INRCOG was also there to talk about some of the different funding options that are available to the city. He is the person who will be working with the city on funding opportunities and grant writing. The main grant he wanted to discuss was a CDBG Grant; however in order for the city to even be able to apply for this grant there are some criteria that need to be met. The first step will be for the council to set the target area of those affected on or around Greeley Street. Once the target area is set, INRCOG will be informed of the number of properties affected. A survey will then be sent to the addresses within the target area. It is very important that if you receive one of these surveys that you fill it out and return it because it is a requirement that a certain% of surveys be completed and returned or the city will not qualify to even apply for this grant. There is $500,000 that the city could potentially be eligible for with this grant and Bryan is projecting that the city could be awarded around $250,000. The council is asking everyone who gets this short survey to please fill it out and return it. It is only 4 questions and the information will not be used for any other purpose.

In addition to the presentation by IIW and INRCOG, the city council discussed the possibility of adding a stormwater charge to the utility bill to help cover the costs of this repair as well as planning for future costs. Bryan stated that this charge would be a good way to help offset the local match that is required for most grant funding. He also mentioned that this is something that a lot of cities have done recently to help offset the maintenance and upkeep of stormwater systems. There was no decision made.

There was no other business. Dietz-Robinson Motioned to adjourn. Cerwinske Seconded. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32PM.

 Pending Approval by City Council

 John Ott

 City Clerk