

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### 2020 Street & Utility Improvement Project

8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and Scott Court

#### **What is the status of upcoming meetings related to the project?**

- The **March 24, 2020 Project Informational Meeting** has been cancelled due to the recent COVID-19 emergency. The intent of the meeting was to provide project property owners the opportunity to meet with City Staff and Engineers to discuss the improvements and answer questions about the proposed improvements and assessments.
- The **April 7, 2020 Hearing on Proposed Assessment** is planned to be conducted as noted in the letter mailed to property owners. The Hearing will begin at 6:00 pm at the Fire Hall and allows those proposed to be assessed an opportunity to address the City Council regarding the project and/or proposed assessment. With the current COVID-19 emergency, this could change so please routinely check the City Website for announcements.
- Figures showing the proposed improvements for 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and Scott Court are available on the City Website. Construction would likely begin in May of 2020 and be completed in September of 2020.

#### **What if I am unable to attend the April 7<sup>th</sup> Hearing on Proposed Assessment but would like to provide a statement to the City Council?**

- If you are unable to attend the April 7<sup>th</sup> Hearing on Proposed Assessment but would like to provide a statement to the City Council, this can be done by providing a written statement to the City Clerk prior to 5 pm on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The written statement needs to include your name and property address. The statement will be read aloud at the Hearing for the record.

#### **What happens at the Hearing on Proposed Assessment?**

- Property owners can address the City Council about the project or proposed assessment. Any written statements received will also be read at this time.

## **What happens after the Hearing on Proposed Assessment?**

- After all persons wishing to speak are heard, and all written statements received are read, the Hearing on Proposed Assessment will be closed by the Mayor. The regular City Council meeting will then follow. At the regular City Council meeting, the City Council will consider whether to adopt the proposed assessments. If the proposed assessments are adopted, the assessments will be recorded at Blue Earth County in November 2020. The City Council will then consider awarding the construction project to the contractor so that construction can begin.

## **How do I pay my Proposed Assessment?**

- Assessment payment options were provided in the letter to property owners. Two options are available.
  - o If a property owner chooses to pay the full assessment amount to the City Clerk by December 15, 2020, no interest is charged.
  - o If a property owner chooses not to pre-pay the entire assessment amount in full, the assessment amount will be spread out in equal annual installments over a period of 15 years at an interest rate of 2% over the bond interest rate. In this case, the City will submit the assessment amounts to the Blue Earth County Auditor, and the assessment payments will be automatically added to your property taxes beginning in 2021.

## **I received a letter regarding replacement of my sanitary sewer service between the right-of-way line and my home. Why did I receive this letter?**

- If you received a letter regarding the replacement of the sanitary sewer service between the right-of-way line and your home, this is because your service is believed to be clay pipe. City Ordinance requires that clay service pipe be replaced with new PVC pipe to the home. This is because clay pipe joints are not watertight and allow tree roots and groundwater to enter the pipe. Tree roots will eventually cause the service pipe to plug causing wastewater to backup into the home. Groundwater is prohibited from entering sanitary sewer pipe because it results in additional wastewater treatment costs for city residents.
- If you did not receive this letter, your sanitary sewer service was either PVC or did not connect to the new proposed sanitary sewer main within the roadway. In this case, you are not required to replace the line from your home to the right-of-way line.

## **If I'm required to replace my sanitary sewer service between my home and the right-of-way line, what options do I have? What do I need to do?**

- Two options are available:

### **Option A**

As part of the 2020 Street & Utility Improvement Project, the City received a cost from the contractor to replace your clay sanitary sewer service from the property line to your home. The cost was included with your assessment notice under Option A. If you choose this option, please complete and submit Agreement Form A included with the letter. The project contractor will then complete this work for you and the cost will be included with your project assessment.

### **Option B**

You can contact a local contractor or plumber and arrange for the replacement of your clay sanitary sewer service pipe between the right-of-way line and home. Under this option, you would submit to the City your contractor's invoices for replacement of the pipe and associated surface restoration costs (such as turf, landscaping, and pavement if removal was required for installation of the new service pipe). The City would then pay your contractor and add the payment amount to your project assessment. If you choose this option, please complete and submit Agreement Form B.

- If you received a letter regarding replacement of the sanitary sewer service between the right-of-way line and your home, please complete and submit to the City Clerk either Agreement Form A or Agreement Form B. We ask that the form be submitted to the City Clerk by April 6, 2020.

## **What if I have questions?**

- Questions can be directed to either Amber Duncanson at City Hall or the project engineer, Jeff Domras. Contact information for each is below.

Amber Duncanson: 524-3492

[info@mapletonmn.com](mailto:info@mapletonmn.com)

Jeff Domras: 507-625-4171

[Jeffrey.Domras@bolton-menk.com](mailto:Jeffrey.Domras@bolton-menk.com)