

**City of Fairmont
100 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031**

City Council Minutes
Special Meeting

June 6, 2024
Gomsrud Park Shelter House, 4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Fairmont City Council met in special session at the Gomsrud Park Shelter House. Mayor Baarts called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council present: Wayne Hasek, Councilmember
Britney Kawecki, Councilmember
Randy Lubenow, Councilmember
Jay Maynard, Councilmember
Michele Miller, Councilmember

Staff present: Matt Skaret, City Administrator
Paul Hoye, Finance Director
Matthew York, Director of Public Works/Utilities
Michael Hunter, Chief of Police
Nick Lardy, Parks/Streets Superintendent
Eric Schaefer, Parks Foreman
Tyler Cowing, City Engineer
Betsy Steuber, City Clerk
Troy Nemmers, Bolton & Menk (Contracted Services)

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Council Member Lubenow to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

ROTATING VOTES

Please note that votes taken by roll call are called by the City Clerk on a rotating basis; however, the written minutes list the Councilmembers in alphabetical order.

**NEW BUSINESS
MOTION
Item 4.1**

Mayor Baarts introduced the Gomsrud Park-Parking Lot agenda item. Director of Public Work/Utilities York stated after the discussion and request of Council at the May 13, 2024, Council meeting, staff met with Bolton & Menk and developed Option #5 (as attached to the June 6, 2024 meeting agenda). Option #5 considers all necessary local, state, and federal requirements as well as Council input. Director York stated the parking lot will be raised 24" to give a retention base to the required stormwater retention pond, including a dock switchback for ADA compliance and a walkway with steps for access to the Let's Go Fishing

dock. The boat ramps will be more squared up and the parking lot will have 14 vehicle spots and 17 pull-thru spots.

Should Option #5 not be suitable, alternatives include:

- only fixing the ramps,
- conducting minor asphalt patching, or;
- doing nothing and either restarting the design or pushing the project back another year.

Option #5 is estimated at \$1.15 million, with the original project budgeted at \$1.06 million.

Questions were raised by Mayor Baarts if the layout of Option #5 would have an impact on snow removal and if approved, when the project could begin. Superintendent Lardy indicated there would be no issue with snow removal – snow would continue to be pushed/piled to the south. Bolton & Menk Engineer Troy Nemmers stated August was slated as the starting date initially and that should still be possible.

Councilmember Kawecky inquired of the cost of a single poured slab. Engineer Nemmers said it would cost approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000 for a single poured slab. Nemmers stated the DNR planks (5' x 12') are free, with approximately \$1,500 for shipping and \$15,000 for installation of a 60' ramp.

Councilmember Miller voiced concerns with power loading with a poured slab. Superintendent Lardy responded by stating the issue of power loading is primarily reflective of the water level and boat operation.

Park Board Member Jodie Whitmore expressed cracking and deterioration concerns with a poured concrete slab due to Minnesota conditions. Whitmore voiced listing to the DNR and to move this project forward.

Park Board Member Monica Shelgren questioned where the project left off 2 years ago - after a survey was conducted, layout options were presented, and the Park Board made a recommendation. Director York indicated SGA, an architect firm, was subcontracted to layout the overall park plan and work with Bolton & Menk, an engineering firm, to conduct design work for construction and implementation to occur. SGA continues to work with Bolton & Menk on the Project. Director York said there are three phases to this project:

- Phase 1: north parking lot and boat ramp
- Phase 2: east parking lot and parking lot east of the shelter house

Councilmember Lubenow stated funds allocated for the Gomsrud Park Project were used for repairs to the Channel. He stated Phase 1 is important, however cost is a big consideration, and we would have to see where the budget sits for moving forward for the following phase(s). Councilmember Lubenow stated Option #5 was the best use of space and draws all the projects together. Director York

Councilmember Kawecki spoke with several community groups, citizens, park users and boaters. Overall, the consensus Councilmember Kawecki received was that citizens were not happy with the various design options – they are happy with what we already have. Councilmember Kawecki heard users want better lake access and that the project is overdesigned and overpriced. Director York said the project was designed based off the various necessary requirements and received feedback.

Director York answered Councilmember Hasek’s question with regard to the necessity and location of the stormwater retention basin indicating the planned location is the most preferential due to elevation/grading issues.

Councilmember Kawecki suggested placing two launches further east, off of the gravel lot to aid with the power loading issue. Director York indicated that option would require dredging and is not fiscally responsible in addition to moving closer to residential homes.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lubenow, seconded by Councilmember Miller, to approve Option #5 for the Gomsrud Park Parking Lot Design and authorize Staff to advertise for bids on said topic; the following voted in favor thereof: Hasek, Lubenow, Maynard, Miller; and the following voted against the same: Kawecki; Abstained: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

**MOTION
Item 4.2**

At the May 13, 2024, Council meeting, Council directed staff to research a slab on grade enclosed shelter of 1,000 square feet or less for Veterans’ Park. Director York met with Councilmember Lubenow to discuss the goals of the project to bring forth an area for people to enjoy and congregate. Due to the capacity limitations of the slab on grade shelter, Director York and Councilmember Lubenow devised the following solution for the site: installing 6 picnic tables, 2 grills and replacement of the sidewalk on the east side of the site, aiding with ADA compliance

Councilmember Lubenow voiced that the ultimate goal was a shelter, but with the cost constraints and debris buried at the site, this is the best option.


Director York stated Engineer Cowing is collaborating with the Fairmont School to have ISG examine the basketball courts at Veterans Park when inspecting the schools' courts as a cost saving measure.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller to move forward per Staff's recommendation on equipment for Veterans' Park. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Lubenow, to adjourn the meeting, as there was no further business to come before the Council. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. The Fairmont City Council adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

ATTEST:



Betsy Steuber, City Clerk



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor