

REGULAR MEETING DE SMET COMMON COUNCIL
April 30, 2024

The De Smet Common Council met in regular session on April 30, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., with the following present: Council members Dane Coughlin, Bret Jensen, Pam Spader, Lowell Hansen, George Cavanaugh, Dustin Mc Cune, Mayor Gary Wolkow, Finance Officer Tracey Larson, and City Attorney Todd Wilkinson. Absent: none.

Mayor Wolkow called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The meeting started with the council and those from the public reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ZONING: Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Jensen, that the Council to be convened as the Board of Adjustment, all voting aye, motion carried. The Board of Adjustment was called to order by Mayor Wolkow.

MAIN STREET PROJECT: Representative for the De Smet Main Street Committee, Jamie Lancaster, presented a power point that highlighted the benefits and goals by adding various features along Main Street. The committee's goal is to create a place for residents and visitors to visit, shop, and spend more time in De Smet. Benefits of welcoming features include visitors staying longer, increased revenue to local business, increased sales tax, and increased quality of life. Feature ideas presented included: greenspaces, lighting, banners, flowers, sitting and gathering areas, pocket parks, sculptures, visual enhancements to provide safety, additional electric outlets, and signage, a welcome arch, and enhanced pedestrian crossings. Enhancement features would be paid for with fundraising. Concerns presented were parking, snow removal, vehicles backing out of parking spaces, delivery trucks, and maintenance of plants or trees. After the presentation by the Main Street Committee, questions and comments from the council and attendees were discussed. Discussion during this time included: the monthly cost to the City for the new lighting, some business owners stating they have not been contacted by the Committee, not adding additional statues to Main Street, keeping the existing benches and flowerpots that have been donated, and keeping a neat, uncluttered look. Questions about the infrastructure improvements were answered by IMEG Engineers Shane Waterman and Peter Adair. Before the project is advertised to bid, a list of features to be included will need to be given to the engineers. A meeting with Ottertail to discuss street lighting will need to be set-up, and a survey to determine which features are a higher priority will be set-up for the public to have input. After the survey is completed, cost estimates will be determined and planned with the engineers.

Mayor Wolkow thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the input for the project.

ADJOURN: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on motion by Hansen.

Gary Wolkow, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tracey Larson, Finance Officer

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