



CITY OF CRESCENT CITY

Mayor Jason Greenough
Council Member Beau Smith

Mayor Pro Tem Blake Inscore
Council Member Isaiah Wright

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL -
MEASURE S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP (STREETS)
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

TUESDAY

MARCH 9, 2021

5:30 P.M.

OPEN SESSION

- Call to order** Mayor Greenough called the joint meeting to order at 5:42 pm
- Roll call** Measure S Oversight Committee present: Board Member Cindy Cruz, Board Member Ernie Perry, Board Member Emery Mattz IV, and Chair Kelly Schellong
Measure S Oversight Committee Member absent: Vice-Chair Heidi Kime
Council Members present: Council Member Beau Smith, Council Member Isaiah Wright, Mayor Pro Tem Blake Inscore, and Mayor Jason Greenough
Staff members present: City Manager Eric Wier, City Attorney Martha Rice, City Clerk/Administrative Analyst Robin Patch, City Engineer Olson, Human Resources Administrator Sunny Valero, Finance Director Linda Leaver, Recreation and Events Coordinator Director Holly Wendt, and Fire Chief Bill Gillespie

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Greenough

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - *there were no public comments*

PRESENTATION

1. Measure S – Streets

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council and Committee*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council and Committee discussion*
- *Take action as necessary and appropriate*

City Manager Wier stated that tonight's meeting focuses on Streets and the next meeting is set for March 29th to discuss the fire department and the pool. City Engineer Olson explained how funding is obtained for the repairing of roads and that some comes from local regional funding through Del Norte Local Transportation Commission. In order to design, maintain and service our roads, it takes a large amount of money, the City has limited resources therefore additional funding for streets is vital. The current direct City funding sources are through the General Fund in the amount of \$275k, Gas Tax in the amount of \$175k, SB1 in the amount of \$130k and then

through Measure S which is expected to bring in a total of \$1.3million to be used for police, fire, pool, and streets. It is expected to have close to \$325k of Measure S funds that will fund street projects. City Manager Wier stated that all of the direct City funding sources are fully used which includes the repair of sidewalks as well. Director Olson continued in his presentation outlining the projects that were completed by using grants. He also went over the streets that are prioritized throughout the City by placing them in certain categories and displaying a map – categories included: reconstruction, structural renewal (overlay), preservation treatments (non-structural), crack sealing and minor patching, no maintenance required. City Manager Wier stated that the reconstruction piece (outline in red) are high-dollar projects. Council Member Smith asked about the \$60k for self-perform or no bid contract for bidding; Director Olson stated that this is the threshold established. Chair Schellong asked if the County would be able to go out for that; Director Olson stated that now it requires contractors – but the City has worked hand in hand with the County. Chair Schellong asked about the Davis Bacon Law; City Attorney Rice stated that the prevailing wage comes into play when a project is more than \$1,000. Director Olson said that the threshold over \$2500 has to be registered with the State and contractors are required to send their reports to the State who makes sure prevailing wage and benefits line up. Council Member Smith asked aside from special projects, are there any services that public works isn't doing right now because there were no funds to do so; Director Olson stated that we aren't maintaining things as well as we need to because we don't have the funding to do so; a good example of that are streetlights and potholes. Council Member Smith asked if we have adequate staffing; Director Olson stated that if we increased the number of potholes to fill, we'd need more people to help. The PW crew is always busy and always doing some sort of work. City Manager Wier stated that there is a lot of back logged work; all of the water mains are the City's responsibility and that includes in the County and staff is dealing with leaks all the time. Chair Schellong asked if it was \$60k per project and about 5% local preference; City Manager Wier stated it gets tricky with bidding with the laws, but purchases do have the 5% local preference.

The following citizen gave public comment:

Board Supervisor Darrin Short: stated that as a Council Member, he too thought City crews would be able to do the work; one of the City employees stated that if we shave the streets even a tenth of an inch, a bid is required to include prevailing wage.

Board Member Perry stated that the County Roads Department does not take the sewer system in the County, the City does. The road projects' problem is the State of California. He went over how the City cannot contract with the County to do work on City streets because of the regulations from the State. It's cheaper to have a private contractor do a street than to contract with the County due to the State Auditor who adds additional costs to the overall project. Chair Schellong what is the City's plan for the maintenance of Front Street; Director Olson stated that we will touch it in five-years and watch the data on the pavement plan. At year five, hit cracks with some crackseal. To address Chair Schellong's question about how much a street cost is, Director Olson stated it would be \$200k to \$350k. Director Olson stated it is imperative that the group understands that due to limited resources, prioritization of projects is critical to make the funding be used efficiently. City Manager Wier stated that it's important to make sure potholes are repaired, spot sidewalk repair, and do stripping. Options to consider are borrow and go – currently interest rates are low. Other options are grants including what's next on the agenda, the INFRA Grant. Other grants such as CDBG, BUILD, and ATP are not suitable for streets. City Manager Wier went over the City's current resources and what the annual expense options would be. Chair Schellong stated that the residents who will be paying the tax will want to see results and not results in five-years. Suggested a large project would be best; City Manager Wier stated the large slurry seal project is a good treatment to pick, but picking the right street is important as the aggregate is really thin (1/4 inch). Director Olson stated that with that type of sealing the minor patching and crack seal would need to be done on the yellow categorized street and further explained the best practice. Chair Schellong asked if there were any grants in relation to the library that will help take care of their parking lot? City Manager Wier stated the City can research it, but

we don't have a grant writer, so it is staff that would be searching for appropriate grants and it has been very difficult to get the grants applied for. Board Member Perry agrees that some action needs to be done soon so those who are paying for the tax can see their money being used immediately. Chair Schellong stated that since this is a lot of money and large projects, more information should be brought back with priorities, how much it would cost, and what doing the projects over the next year would look like. Asked for a priority matrix and costs associated. Board Member Perry suggested when discussions are had with the County to ask about Elk Valley Road in regards to the challenges they had. Mayor Greenough asked how much life give to the "yellow category" roads; City Manager Wier stated that it depends on preparation; in 10 years, some of the surface starts wearing off. Mayor Pro Tem Inscore agreed that putting something out there that the public can see right away is good, however, it's important to know that it's making our good roads better, but not doing anything for our bad roads. If we can get the rest of Front Street done for \$2million, that would be a perfect project to accomplish. Chair Schellong agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Inscore and why she suggested the matrix of the priorities. Board Member Perry asked for the Committee to be provided with lists on the streets showing that they will be done, it would be helpful for the public; and further stated that if we chose Front Street, it wouldn't get started this year, but in the next two years. Mayor Greenough stated that the short-term win is important so the community can see where the money is going firsthand. Would like to see Front Street done, is not a fan of borrowing money, but feels the idea should be vetted. Board Member Cruz asked if since the deadline is the 19th, do we need to make a decision tonight? City Manager Wier stated that although it's a good project, this is a super competitive grant. Director Olson stated that with the notice of funding, its tied to the production of goods and services, its geared more towards bigger projects. We need to show that we will move goods and services on Front Street, but we won't be the most competitive, but it is worth the shot for \$3million. Mayor Greenough asked how many of these grants get awarded annually; Director Olson answered that it is unknown. Mayor Pro Tem Inscore stated that 25% of this particular grant is required to go to rural communities. Feels like the INFRA grant is something that should be pursued. Mayor Greenough asked if we should go before the Tribal Councils to get them on board; City Manager Wier stated that the timing is too tight, the deadline is Friday. Board Member Perry stated a letter of support from Elk Valley Rancheria (EVR) would be critical. Council Member Smith stated that \$2k is a lot of money for people in this community for a "roll at the dice". Does not feel comfortable agreeing to spending that money with no guarantee we'll even get the funding. Mayor Greenough said if we don't put in an application, nothing will happen. Chair Schellong agreed that \$2k is a lot of money, but it is a good return on the investment if the chance to get the grant is 11%. Mayor Pro Tem Inscore stated that partnering with EVR for funding would be a good approach. Mayor Greenough stated that in order to get Front Street done, we should invest the money to apply for the funding. Mayor Pro Tem Inscore stated that when it comes to infrastructure grants, there is a learning curve, so if we don't get it this time, there is always next year. Board Member Mattz asked if the work done on Front Street could be a smaller project for \$2million; Director Olson explained why redoing Front Street costs more than \$2mil. We could scale things back, but it all comes back to the planning we've done. Board Member Mattz stated it was the landscaping and other attributes that he was suggesting cutting back on. Chair Schellong stated that a matrix and priority list will be helpful for future decisions. City Manager Wier stated it will be worked on and submitted to the Committee and Council.

2. 2021 INFRA Grant

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Give staff direction regarding the application for the 2021 INFRA Grant*

Mayor Pro Tem Inscore asked if both City Manager Wier and Director Olson if they were comfortable with the \$2k expenditure; City Manager Wier stated that we do not have \$2k in the

budget, therefore if direction was given to expend the money, the application will be submitted and a budget adjustment would be on the next Council agenda.

Sunny Valero: stated that the return we would see from the \$2k, the community already sees the big work we are doing, and this will keep us moving in the right direction and people are taking notice.

Mayor Pro Tem Inscore made a motion to direct staff to apply for the 2021 INFRA Grant, before a second was taken, City Manager Wier asked for clarification from the Council. Did they want staff to see the minimum of \$5million to do the part of Front Street that has not been completed yet to Hwy 101, with the parking lot piece, or do they want to replicate what was done for the BUILD Grant and take it all the way through to A Street. Mayor Pro Tem Inscore and Mayor Greenough both stated that doing from the S Curves to where Front Street left off would be their desire. Mayor Greenough brought the motion back to the floor, Council Member Wright seconded the motion and before polling the vote, Mayor Greenough asked if there was anything further from the Council. Council Member Smith asked for clarification, that the money will need to come from our reserve in order to apply for the grant; City Manager Wier answered in the affirmative. Council Member Smith stated that he does not agree with this application and that it is not good money management. Chair Schellong stated that this could be viewed as using Measure S money; stated the Council should ask the question if they felt that the community would be on board with spending the \$2k. Board Member Perry stated that even if the funds are not obtained this time, the discussion held tonight and information obtained can be used in the following year's application.

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Inscore, seconded by Council Member Wright, and carried unanimously on a 4-0 polled vote, the City Council of the City of Crescent City directed staff to apply for the 2021 INFRA Grant.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Greenough adjourned at 8:23 pm to the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Crescent City scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom, Crescent City, CA 95531.

ATTEST:



Robin Patch
City Clerk/Administrative Analyst