

CITY OF MILACA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 25, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order Roll Call

Mayor Dillan called the meeting of the Milaca City Council to order at 5:30 p.m.

Upon roll call, the following council members were present: Mayor Dave Dillan, Councilors: Ken Muller and Lindsee Larsen. Absent: Norris Johnson and Laurie Gahm.

Staff present: Assistant City Clerk Deloris Katke, Communications Specialist Mary Mickelson, and Public Works Superintendent Gary Kirkeby

Others present: Chloe Smith, Tom & Yvonne Sauer, Steve (and wife) Hage, Tim & Karen Poorker, Russell Fellbaum (MN DOT), Chad Erickson (MN DOT) and Phil Gravel (Stantec Engineer)

Public Hearing: *Discuss Funding Options and the Hwy 23 Project in Detail and to Approve Final Layout for SP 4801-26 Hwy 23 Project:*

Public Hearing open at 5:31 p.m.

Russell Fellbaum, Project Manager of MN DOT, gave his presentation. I will give you an overview of the project and then if there are any questions, I can answer them. This is the west end of the project by the Rum River. With this project on the north side we will be adding the 10 foot shared use trail as shown in the magenta coloring. 3rd Ave by the school will have a roundabout, trail on the north side and the existing sidewalk on the south side up to Central Ave. The big change here is the roundabout and then the trail on the north side. We have been working with the school and the city on this entrance and it will be a right-in, right out only.

As we go further along, at Central Ave. where there is currently a signal. We will have a mini roundabout which is different than a full size roundabout. This one is used to where large semi's are able to drive over.

Further East here, you still have the trail on the north side. We will be narrowing up the road here. Narrow shoulders so no parking. This is to slow traffic through town. Which is what this project is about.

Just east of 5th Ave, the sidewalk ends at the last house on the south side. The trail continues on to the east. One other change that will be noticeable is at 3rd Street which right now has a right-in, right-out to Hwy. 23. This will be a cul de sac off to these last two residents to make sure they get access.

At Kwik Trip and Hardees there will be another round about there. The southbound ramp will be a right only and then enter the roundabout and go back east. They can still access the southbound ramp in both directions. Northbound ramp has a round about there and towards 110th, you have a full access for turning off of Hwy 23 but to turn onto Hwy 23 it will be a right only. There is another round about to the east and that is to help slow traffic down as it enters the city.

This project also includes city utilities and lighting. Right now this is scheduled for September 2026 with construction in 2027 and 2028. There will be detours but businesses will always have access.

Mayor Dillan asked Mr. Fellbaum to discuss the change that was made on Hwy. 23 with the left in coming from the East at 110th. Mr. Fellbaum stated originally we had the median going across there and it was a right in, right out only on both sides. We were able to change this so you could take a left or right off Hwy. 23 to go north or south.

Tim Poorker questioned why there wasn't a round about by 110 instead of by Co. Rd. 2. Mr. Fellbaum stated that was looked at by the core study but they said the round about by Co. Rd. 2 would help slow the traffic down coming into town. Tim also questioned why not leave the stoplight at Central Avenue? Mr. Fellbaum stated that stoplights are not considered safety devices and Federal funding does not cover stoplights because they don't make intersections safer. Mr. Chad Erickson explained that the study showed that due to the tightness at this intersection, trucks wanting to make a left turn would have to swing into the right turn lane to make the left turn and obviously this would cause a traffic hazard. The mini roundabout is designed for larger trucks to drive over the roundabout.

Mayor Dillan asked if Steve Hage wanted to speak. Steve stated him and his wife own the car wash at 850 10th St NE. Mr. Hage sated his son runs a 40 acre Christian school in California and they use the access with left turns and are privately funded. Mr. Hage requested to look at this at the school on Hwy. 23. At Central Avenue with the tight design, he would like to have a signal light intersection as the best way to manage the traffic and flow at that intersection. He further stated there is a lot of traffic going up to the industrial park on 110th. It would be our suggestion that the roundabout at the northbound exit off Hwy. 23 be relocated at the east to 110th and then match the right turn only that you have on the southbound side at the northbound exit. Ideally we would like to see a signal light there. He also stated that he would like to defer the far east roundabout until future development is planned on the east side of town.

Tom Sauer questioned if signal lights were more cost effective than roundabouts. Mr. Fellbaum stated signal lights used to be \$400,000-\$500,000 but now they can be up to \$900,000. Roundabouts are at that same cost approximately but in the long term you don't have the cost of electricity and maintenance over the years.

Mayor Dillan commented that roundabouts eliminate the left hand turns at stoplights which are the most dangerous turns to make.

Tim Poorker questioned the crosswalk at the school and how the foot traffic would be handled. Mr. Fellbaum stated that with the roundabout it should improve the foot traffic. We are working with the school and the city to put in rapid flashing beacons as well to get the attention of the traffic. Mayor Dillan stated that there are times when a vehicle stops for a pedestrian in the crosswalk and then a vehicle from behind will pass on the right. This roundabout would eliminate this. Mayor Dillan stated initially the meridian was going to go farther down it would have to be a right out of the parking lot but now it is a right or left out.

Mayor Dillan also commented on the trail/walk path all the way through town and how that is a great safety feature to have.

Mrs. Hage asked if the state would help businesses with permanent signage after the project. Mr. Erickson stated that the state would install the sign but more than likely the expense would be the business.

Tim Poorker asked where the funding would be coming from for this project. Mayor Dillan stated that would be discussed in further detail at our budget workshop.

Mrs. Hage asked if there could be a cost comparison between stop light and roundabouts. Mr. Erickson stated that if a signal light is put out there that would significantly increase the cost as 50% of that cost would go to the city. Mr. Erickson continued to say that signal lights add a significant cost.

No other questions or discussion.

Mayor Dillan closed the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.

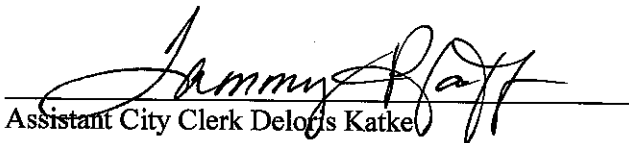
Adjourn:

Mayor Dillan called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Muller, seconded by Larsen to adjourn. No further discussion. All in favor, motion to adjourn passes. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.



Mayor Dave Dillan

Attest:



Assistant City Clerk Deloris Katke