

CITY OF VAN ALSTYNE

MINUTES

City Council Special Called Meeting

Van Alstyne Community Center

262 N. Preston Ave

AUGUST 18, 2017

5:25 P.M.

Members present: Mayor Larry Cooper, Brad Clough, Teddie Ann Salmon, Robert Jaska, Lee Thomas and Suzon Crowell.

Staff present: Frank Baker, Jennifer Gould, Tim Barnes, Judy Kimzey and Ryan Dockery.

AGENDA.

1. Call to Order. *Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 5:29pm.*
2. Agenda Request: Discussion and take any action necessary regarding request to remove all items from the 2017-2018 Van Alstyne budget regarding the Shared Use Path (also known as the Van Alstyne Bicycle Trail) and that this Shared Use Path project be brought back to council for reevaluation at a later date. *Teddie Ann Salmon made a motion to allow the public to provide comments for three minutes each. Suzon Crowell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Barbara Ainsworth asked if the City Manager is going to get a raise. Jan Walker expressed disfavor for increased taxes and more administrative personnel. Kaaren Teuber opposed any additional phases of the Shared Use Path as when it gets to Dallas Ave it will be taking yards, driveways and trees. Mrs. Teuber advised the money would be better spent elsewhere. Collin Flynn expressed favor for the Shared Use Path. Teddie Ann Salmon asked if the CDC would fully fund the project to which Mr. Flynn advised the corporation does not have the funds. Billy Plake expressed favor for the Shared Use Path. James Flanery presented a petition or survey to suspend funding with 135 signatures. Judy Smith expressed thanks for the new playground equipment and advised that the path is needed to keep up with Anna as their parks are more advanced. Robert Lewis advised that the plan for the path was originally to go down Waco St but is unsure when it moved to Dallas Ave and is not in favor of the path. Dennis Gaubatz expressed favor for the Shared Use Path even with the loss of two trees as it will provide mobility to him allow him to use his scooter to go on walks with his daughter which he cannot do on the streets. Jonathan Flanagan expressed disfavor for the path as it will cause him to lose two pecan trees and if the trees were able to remain, falling branches will become a danger to those using the path. Mr. Flanagan also expressed concern for the potential reduction in property values and increased insurance costs. Joann Weatherwax expressed appreciation for the idea however she does not believe the need exists. Fay Hix expressed concern for the width of the path as it will take up a majority of the yard. Mr. Hix added, there is nothing good about the path in the proposed area. Shannon Morgan advised watching children walk or ride bicycles down Waco St is concerning adding that the path will provide safe travel to and from school. Randall Morgan, a School Board member, advised the ISD gave right-of-way out of concern for safe travel to school and felt it was a great community project. As a citizen, Mr. Morgan expressed appreciation to the elected officials and staff for the difficult tasks undertaken. Dennis*

Smith empathized with those concerned for giving up right-of-way but would love a bike path because of the dangers of riding on the street. Superintendent Dr. David Brown offered that traveling from the high school to Blassingame Ave is dangerous for children. The school district thought it important to offer an alternative. Considering the growth coming to the area and the school district's inability to provide transportation to all because of constraints placed on it by law, children will be walking and riding to school. Dr. Brown asked that council not kill the project and suggested looking at alternatives. Darin Clum asked why Dallas Ave was chosen to which Len McManus answered that it will be contiguous to Phase 1. Cheryl Snider expressed that the path is an upscale amenity but is concerned about Dallas Ave and its residents and would like more hearings to occur before the project goes further. Brian Ballard expressed opposition to the path on Dallas Ave. Pat Paque expressed concern that Dallas Ave residents were not aware of the proposal. Donnie Neill advised that he has growth in mind but the vision should be clear therefore the project should not continue until further discussed. Jim Atchison expressed favor for the path and in support of funding to plan, educate and inform the public. Jim Fetz expressed favor for moving the path from Dallas Ave to Waco St. Wayne Womack and Chris Dorak expressed favor for the path. Suzon Crowell expressed thanks to those who attended and shared thoughts and opinions but suggested the funds should go toward other city services and possibly avoid raising taxes. Lee Thomas asked if the funds would be available, if reallocated from the Shared Use Path expense to which Frank Baker advised there is an anticipated revenue for the reimbursement of the path expenses therefore removal of the expense does not create available funds for other expenses. Robert Jaska suggested following through with Phase 1 and using the time available to plan. Teddie Ann Salmon suggested the funds be spent on necessities. Brad Clough asked if funds are spent before the grant is awarded to which Mr. Baker answered, no. Teddie Ann Salmon made a motion to remove funds in the budget for Phase 2 and bring it back later. Suzon Crowell seconded the motion and the motion passed with Teddie Ann Salmon, Suzon Crowell and Robert Jaska in favor and Brad Clough and Lee Thomas opposed.

3. Adjournment. *Teddie Ann Salmon made a motion to adjourn at 7:16pm. Brad Clough seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

Larry Cooper, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Gould, City Clerk