

City of Vernon Center  
9/20/2023 @ 6:00 PM  
Neighborhood Construction Meeting

Council Present: Mayor Dana Ziegler, Wendy Bennett, Emily Edwards, Adam Finney, Lisa Peterson.  
Staff Present: Clerk Kara Hansen. PW Supervisor Mark Willette.  
Others Present: Sr. Project Engineer Chris Knutson. Project Engineer John Voigt. Various residents.

Dana started the meeting at 6:00 PM with a quorum declared.

The purpose of the meeting is an open house forum.

The project has been in the works since 2017. First bids were too high. Next bids were too low. We're working on putting in additional items so we can get all the state bond we can.

The Project totals are as follows:

The whole project is approximately \$12 million.  
State bonding is approximately \$7.9 million.  
County portion is approximately \$2.1 million.  
Vernon Center's total cost is approximately \$2 million. The citizens are paying about %16.

We would have liked to have to have this meeting last week, but the contractors were able to start early. The earlier they are able to start the less time it will take to do County Rd 10 in the future. It is inconvenient, but we are working through it. If any citizen has a question they will get an answer. Please reach out to Dana or City Hall.

Sr. Project engineer Chris Knutson said the project was signed into contract last week. They have a rough schedule as follows:

Hilltop, all of East St, Main St, Poplar, Oak Street S should be done this year depending on the availability of crews. All water and sewers will go in. Roads will have to be gravel until next spring when concrete can be poured. Winter will give the ground time to settle which is why they are waiting to pour concrete until winter is over. The contractor, Holtmeier Construction, has until November 2024 to finish everything. They sub-contract for concrete.

Engineer John Voigt is on the project, and will give updates. Notices will not be mailed after the next update, but citizens can receive them by email and text. The city website, post office, and city hall will also have updates.

Water mains are currently being done at Hilltop and they will work up East street. Rain will be a factor. Residents may not have access to their driveway they'll need to find alternate places to put their cars until gravel is laid.

Dana suggested that general questions be asked now, but isolated questions should be asked to Chris Knutson and John Voigt in person.

The bus stop at Poplar could be affected by construction. We will inform the bus company two weeks in advance when we do Poplar. They'll find an alternate place for the kids to be picked up.

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Any trees marked with an "X" will be taken down. The company who is taking care of them is done for this week, but they will return and, hopefully, will be finished by autumn. If residents sign up for updates they can learn when the tree company is coming back to take the trees.

Drain boxes will go into some yards. The drain tiles will be constructed and next year top soil and boxes will go in after.

John Voigt will be on the project this year, but next year there is a good probability there will be another engineer assigned.

Tree replacement is not part of the project. We cannot guarantee that trees will be replaced in the future. Trees will come down before road construction if they are slotted to come down. Trees within 60" of the curb, are in close proximity to a water source, or are in the way of any construction will come down.

Construction on Oak will start on the south side and they'll work north, stopping at main street. This year everything in front of the firehall will be open.

There will be sewer assessments. They are not proposing any increase. Assessments will not happen until next year, and will be talked about next year. Residents are paying for connection to the main. Council has not yet set payback terms. There is a 40 year payback on the loan.

Rural development funds are not used for trees.

For anyone who wants to keep their wood the individual will need to talk with the tree contractor.

If residents have a stump in their yard, not from a tree that was cut down due to the project, the tree company can grind it down for a fee.

If someone takes their tree down before the contractor does the contractor will still grind it down for a fee.

The three main digs are all done consecutively so they don't start digging and leave with unfinished work to move on to another. When they start work on one they continue working until it's all done. It'll take about 2-3 weeks.

Hilltop street is looking at additional work.

Centre street and East street are all getting pavement out. The contractors don't want more than 100 feet of trench open at a time.

For those who live on a road that is being worked on the road will be drivable during weekends. The dirt will be smoothed down and it can be theoretically driven on weather pending.

If the garbage truck can't get to your trash, the contractor can. Contact City Hall if your trash is not picked up.

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The contractor on county 10 has signed off on a contract with BEC. This is a cooperative agreement with BEC. They will take care of 90% of sewer and street on Hwy 10.

Those who have driveways on roads the counties control have to talk to the county about widening or shortening their driveways. If a resident on city roads wants a curb cut, they can request it.

When this is all completed the contractor will do bacterial and pressure testing. A water main is being added to Poplar and Hwy 10 will get one as well.

The contractor will pour up to five feet of concrete in driveways.

Most sidewalks are not going back in. Main Street yes. Others no.

At 7:21 PM Councilor Finney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Edwards. All approved. Motion Passed.