

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Study Session  
May 24, 2021**

A Study session of the Warrensburg City Council was held on Monday, May 24, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., at 200 S. Holden and via Zoom with Mayor Scott Holmberg presiding. Roll was called as follows, Present were: Brooks, Kushner, Lund, Bentley, Holmberg. Absent: none.

The adoption of the agenda was considered. Lund moved to adopt the agenda. Yes: Brooks, Kushner, Lund, Bentley, Holmberg. No: none.

Interim City Manager Danielle Dulin said last April the City entered into an agreement with HDR to help the City apply for a RAISE Grant. She said this is a funding opportunity with the federal government. Dulin said the City would like to apply for this grant in addition to the approval of the General Obligation Bonds for road and street improvements on Maguire Street.

Cory Imhoff, Vice-President from HDR in the Kansas City office, said he is serving as the project principle on this project. He said he has helped with previous projects on Maguire Street. Imhoff introduced Jason Haynes, Project Manager for the RAISE Grant, Taylor McHenry, and Simon Sun.

Haynes said he has worked with City's over the past 20 years, and he loves working with urban cities to see what can be done for a city. He said he will detail history on the project and discuss the RAISE Grant opportunities and answer questions regarding the project scope, schedule and future City Council actions.

**Project History**

Haynes reviewed the project history and said in 2012 there was a project corridor plan which was funded by the Tiger II Grant. He said there are goals and objectives and strategies and elements of the design that are a part of this application.

Haynes said in 2016 the Maguire Street Interchange (US-Highway 50) Operations Study was completed. He said these planning efforts support the need and targets the areas that especially need improvements. He said the 2021 bond initiative that was passed by the citizens of Warrensburg for funding \$17 million was a big step forward.

**Grant Application**

Haynes said the grant application can provide up to \$25 million dollars, but he said there are a lot of pieces on Maguire Street that need improvement. Haynes said right sizing the project is important. He said it is important the MoDOT application portion has been paid. Mayor Holmberg asked about the grant match amount, and Haynes said the applicant can choose the match. He said it is helpful to request a higher match. Haynes said the application deadline is July 12, 2021.

Haynes said the Benefit Cost Analysis is a big part of the grant application. He said there will be a traffic and safety analysis. Haynes said adding a lane provides safety and helps the process. He said environmental sustainability and quality of life are important because of the current administration. Haynes said bicycle access across the bridge will be important for those without

cars. Economic competitiveness and state of repair are important and showing improvement is critical. Haynes said it is helpful that Warrensburg is already following some of these improvements.

Haynes said if it is considered a destination, businesses will want to locate along the corridor. He said economic growth is helpful. Haynes said HDR will be working with the City's community partners and will ask for support from them, and HDR will be able to show them all the benefits.

### **Project Scope**

Haynes said they are envisioning this as a very large project. He has hopes of improving the entire corridor. Haynes said the diverging diamond interchange is outstanding and really works in Springfield. He said HDR has envisioned starting north of Cooper and going to South Street.

Haynes said the improvements would include:

- ✚ Lanes could be added, if needed
- ✚ Pavement replaced
- ✚ Overhead utilities buried
- ✚ Improved pedestrian/bicycle facilities
- ✚ Street scaping and aesthetic features
- ✚ Bridge repair over railroad tracks
- ✚ Stormwater improvements
- ✚ Shepard Park stormwater detention improvements
- ✚ Sidewalk/trail connection from Maguire Street to Hawthorne Park

Haynes described the diverging diamond interchange, and he said adding turn lanes would improve traffic. He said although this is five years old, it is still a very good report.

### **2012 Corridor Study**

Haynes said there were drawings of the number of lanes, but they need to be re-evaluated. He said they have been looking at this as a 35-to-40-million-dollar project. Haynes said if the grant is not obtained, this grant information can be used for other grant applications. He said there might be a counteroffer. Haynes also said there are various cost-share options available. He said although this study is nine years old, Warrensburg has made some improvements.

Interim City Manager Dulin asked about use of the previous information, and Haynes said there have been improvements to alternative crossroads and alternate routes for cars that allows the City to grow around the corridor. He said bicycle and pedestrian and sidewalk improvements have been done. Haynes said some driveways have been removed during redevelopment in the community, which is a great safety feature. When Dulin asked Haynes about the traffic signal improvements, he said this has put the city ahead of other communities. Haynes said all the traffic signal items can be reused.

### **Future Council Actions**

Haynes believes a 17-million-dollar investment for the City and a 17 million dollars with MoDOT would be a good grant amount. Chairman Pro Tem Kushner asked about funding possibilities from MoDOT because they have been resistant in the past. Haynes said even though there is still some life in the bridge, he believes MoDOT would welcome this proposal. Community Development Director Barbara Carroll added this grant has an urban split and the City is not competing with bigger cities. She said Warrensburg would be in the rural portion. Haynes said September 30, 2024, is the date a contract should be in place to begin the project, with a final

date for drawdowns of September 30, 2029. He said these dates should give a good amount of time for projects.

Council member Lund asked about submitting plans, will there be an ability to submit more than one plan. Haynes said the preference is one plan. He said some elements of the project can be decided later. Council member Lund asked if the City decided later to change the amount, (if it was lower), would the City be committed to the higher amount. Haynes said once the application is complete and an offer has been made, he believes they would prefer the applicant not change the original amount request. Haynes said there might be an ability to negotiate. Council member Lund asked steps to follow to help this process run smoothly. Project Manager Bill Graves said the major utilities should be handled first which is like procedures in the past. Graves said the power lines are handled as the project proceeds. Haynes said all of this will be reviewed before the project begins. He said there are a lot of different designs and items that can be added later.

Council member Lund asked about the grant success rates. Haynes said it varies, but it is around 20 to 21 per cent. He said prior to the pandemic, HDR had a 21 per cent success rate. Haynes said the selection criteria has changed, as administrations change too.

Mayor Holmberg said he would like to thank HDR for all the time they have spent on this project. He knows there is a whole lot of work behind the scenes. Mayor Holmberg thanked Haynes and the HDR staff for all their help.

Holmberg moved to close part of this meeting pursuant to Section 610.021 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, relating to:

- (1) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys.

Yes: Brooks, Kushner, Lund, Bentley, Holmberg. No: none. Carried unanimously.

As there was no further business, the study session was adjourned to the closed session.



*Cindy Gabel*  
Cindy Gabel, City Clerk

*Scott Holmberg*  
Scott Holmberg, Mayor

