

**MAHTOMEDI CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 7, 2022**

Mayor Jud Marshall called the work session meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. City Council members Richard Brainerd, Lilly Melander, Luke Schlegel and Jane Schneeweis were in attendance. Washington County Commissioners Fran Miron and Stan Karwoski, Washington County Engineer Kevin Peterson, City Administrator Scott Neilson, City Attorney Bridget Nason, City Engineer John Sachi, Public Works Director Bob Goebel, and City Clerk Jerene Rogers were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Council member Brainerd moved and City Council member Schneeweis seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSS BIRCHWOOD ROAD CLOSURE AND RELATED ITEMS.

Mayor Jud Marshall said he was invited to a meeting to discuss the Birchwood Road closure with County Commissioners Miron and Karwoski, County Engineer Peterson, Birchwood Mayor Wingfield, and Sheriff Starry. He said this meeting was organized quickly.

County Commissioner Miron said the Mayor is correct. He stated County Commissioner Karwoski spoke with Mayor Wingfield and she was willing to meet to discuss this issue. He indicated that Mayor Wingfield was not willing to meet in a public setting to have this discussion. He stated that public safety was a critical aspect of this meeting. He indicated that Mayor Wingfield was asked several times to consider removing the barricades to open the roadway and she refused this request. He explained they offered several different traffic options to slow the traffic and still met resistance. He said when he was on the Hugo City council they never shut down a road for the convenience of their residents. He said the public has an investment and the right to use the road.

City Council member Schneeweis said it is very disappointing that our City Council did not have any input and our residents were not fully represented at this meeting.

County Commissioner Karwoski stated Mayor Wingfield will not open up the road. He said County Engineer Peterson put together a proposed traffic plan for approval by the Birchwood City Council. If the plan is approved County Staff would implement the street plan within a few days.

County Engineer Peterson said the County Commissioners stepped in to get the dialog flowing between the two city councils.

City Council member Schlegel said there is nothing here for the City of Mahtomedi to approve. He said the Birchwood City Council was unhappy, they got \$10,000 from the County and we didn't have a seat at the table. He said there are rumors going around saying Mahtomedi was unwilling to work with Birchwood, which is untrue. He said we have not had the option to communicate with them.

City Council member Brainerd said a letter was sent to the Birchwood Mayor indicating that we wanted to meet with them as a council, in an open meeting.

City Council member Melander said being the liaison to the City of Birchwood, she should have been invited to the meeting between the County Commissioners and the Mayors.

City Council member Schneeweis indicated that the closure is not only harming our residents, but the residents of Willernie and Birchwood as well. She said Willernie Mayor Barb Parent asked our council to do anything we can to get Birchwood to open the road. She said the closure is killing the businesses in downtown.

City Council member Brainerd suggested opening the road on a trial basis after adding safety measures to see how it goes before closing the road completely.

Public Works Director Bob Goebel suggested they use speed trailers. He said the presence of these trailers tends to slow traffic and they will receive accurate speed information to make informed decisions.

City Council member Brainerd said he would like to propose having our mayor and council liaison meet with the County Commissioners and the Birchwood Council representatives before their next scheduled council meeting and if Birchwood does not agree to this, then our Council will attend their meeting.

City Council member Schneeweis agrees with this idea. She realizes that this is an inconvenience for everybody, however it is temporary problem.

Public Works Director Goebel asked County staff to add a temporary stop sign at Wildwood Beach Road and Birchwood Road near the CSAH 12 intersection. He said most people coming from Birchwood make a sweeping left turn onto Wildwood Beach Road and he is concerned about this area.

City Council member Brainerd thanked the County Commissioners and County Engineer for attending the meeting.

County Commissioner Miron said he is proud to represent Mahtomedi.

ADJOURNMENT

City Council member Schlegel moved and City Council member Schneeweis seconded the motion to adjourn the work session at 6:52 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTESTED:



**JERENE ROGERS,
ACCOUNT CLERK**

APPROVED:



**RICHARD BRAINERD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT**