

**MAHTOMEDI CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2022**

City Council President Brainerd called the work session meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. City Council Mayor Jud Marshall and City Council members Lilly Melander, Luke Schlegel and Jane Schneeweis were in attendance. MN Dot Area Representative Adam Josephson, MN Dot Traffic Control Joe Brewer, Carrie Hackman, St. Jude of Lake Catholic Church Principal, Washington County Deputy Ryan Corniea, Encore Representative Christina Newton, City Administrator Scott Neilson, City Engineers John Sachi and Erik Seiberlich, Public Works Director Bob Goebel, and City Clerk Jerene Rogers were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

DISCUSS ST. JUDE'S TRAFFIC ISSUES

City Council President Brainerd said St. Jude of the Lake School requested some help to resolve traffic safety issues within their campus and the segments of roadway leading into their campus. He said the City recently adjusted the no parking on the segment of Grove Street between Warner Avenue and the church parking lot from the north side to the south side of Grove Street and established a 10 mile per hour speed limit in this area. He stated tonight we would like to discuss possible solutions for traffic safety for the school.

City Engineer John Sachi said the City adjusted the no parking from one side of Grove Street to the other to help with sight lines while making right turns onto Grove Street from the church parking lot. He said the traffic is generally very low on this segment of street except during peak periods. He observed the dismissal times and saw 10-12 cars waiting along the shoulder of Mahtomedi Avenue. He said cars line up off Grove Street and weave in and out of parked cars up to 30 minutes before dismissal. He said about half of those vehicles leave through Grove Street to Warner and the other half go out to Mahtomedi Avenue.

City Engineer Erik Seiberlich said he works with school districts to find what is effective for their campuses.

Washington County Deputy Corniea said the cars lining up on Mahtomedi Avenue creates safety issue, especially when there are snowbanks on the side of the street. He said there is a lot of traffic during dismissal, however he is unaware if this has been the cause of any accidents.

Frank Deutsch stated he is a parent that drops off and picks up his children every day. He said the parked vehicle on Grove Street creates a major safety issue. He said when you have to go around that vehicle it forces you to go head on into the other traffic lane. He said most parents move extremely slowly through this area.

Christina Newton representing Encore Senior Living said they have not been challenged by this issue. She said their staff is able to avoid the schools busy times. She indicated that they will sometimes park on Hickory Street.

Bill Mahoney, St. Jude of the Lake said he believes some of the trees and shrubs within their parking lot need to be trimmed as well as some of the city trees.

Carrie Hackman, Principal of St. Jude of the Lake said they would like to work together with the City and nearby residents to find a solution. She said the problem is not just on their property but out of their property as well. She said she has been in contact with a representative from MN Dot regarding signage along Mahtomedi Avenue. She said they can move cars through the parking lot during dismissal in 15 minutes.

Joe Brewer, MN Dot said they came here to listen tonight. He said there would have to be an in-depth study completed before MN Dot would establish a school zone speed limit in this area. He said they have already installed signs noting the school. He said it is a violation for cars to stop along Mahtomedi and this should be enforced. He said the shoulder is not wide enough and vehicles should not stop on the shoulder.

City Council member Schneeweis stated she would like to move forward with a solution that creates the least amount of stress on the least amount of people. She asked if we could put no parking signs on Grove Street for certain time periods of the day.

City Engineer Sachi said we could do that, it would then become an enforcement issue with the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

City Council member Schlegel said he feels the bigger issue is cars lining up on Mahtomedi Avenue. He asked how much the enrollment increased from last year.

Ms. Hackman noted the enrollment for this year is 301. She said the enrollment has doubled in size over the last 5 years.

City Engineer Seiberlich said we are discussing the safety of children. He said there are two agencies, a school and residents impacted by this. He said they could complete a study that looks at how to manage the traffic internally. He said internal circulation is a good way to get cars off the roadways.

City Council President Brainerd asked if the school would be willing to pay for a study to get this resolved.

Ms. Hackman said the school would be willing to help pay for a solution to this issue. She said the traffic issue is not entirely a school issue.

City Administrator Scott Neilson said he doesn't feel the taxpayers should have to pay for an issue associated with a private property. He indicated the City could require an escrow like we do for land use applications that could be used to pay for engineer fees for this study.

City Council President Brainerd said we greatly appreciate everyone coming to this meeting. He said we are aware of policing enforcement issues, Grove Street parking issues, special school speed zones on Mahtomedi, parking lot issues within the school/church and circulation issues from Mahtomedi Avenue into the school parking lot and off of Grove Street. He said there is a willingness to complete a traffic study by the school and WSB can possibly help in that area.

City Council member Schlegel said eventually Mahtomedi Avenue will become a city roadway and we will be in the planning stages to reconstruct the road. He asked the school to communicate with us their forecast enrollment numbers so we can plan for additional cars when planning the reconstruction.

ADJOURNMENT

City Council member Schlegel moved and City Council member Melander seconded the motion to adjourn the work session at 7:20 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTESTED:



**JERENE ROGERS,
ACCOUNT CLERK**

APPROVED:



**JUD MARSHALL
MAYOR**