

**Troy City Public Hearing
Council Chambers
August 11, 2014
6:30 pm**

The meeting came to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Mayor Darren Coldwell; Council: Joe Arts, Crystal Denton, Dallas Carr, and Kimberly Rowse, City Clerk Tracy Rebo.

GUESTS: John Clogston, Karan Clogston, Anthony Brown, Linda Rodriguez, Rachelle Garrison, David Norman, Payton Norman, Max Schrader, Laura Schrader, Linda Rose, Carren Coldwell, Allison Lundin, Ron Pierce, Fran McCully, Earl Teats, and Mrs. Teats.

SPRINKLING AND OILING INCREASE PROPOSAL: Mayor Coldwell announced that no decisions would be made at this meeting and that it is an opportunity for the Mayor and Council to receive input from the citizens of Troy regarding the proposal to increase the Sprinkling and Oiling tax for road improvements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

Coldwell explained to the public what the sprinkling and oiling assessment is. He explained that the City is looking at increasing it by ten cents, twenty cents, or thirty cents. He gave some examples. Coldwell expressed the need for the maintenance and the difficulty to do it with the increasing costs of oil. He encouraged public input and stated that he and Council have not decided what to do at this point.

Fran McCully – asked for more explanation on the condition of the streets when said “sluffing away”. Coldwell explained that the sides of the roads are depleting, thus the roads are getting narrower and we are driving on gravel. McCully asked if it is the currently maintained road or the sides where people park. Coldwell answered that everything he is talking about tonight is what the City currently maintains.

Coldwell asked for people to stand and state their name for the record when taking their turn to speak.

Ron Pierce - stated the he was previously on Council for 15 years. He stated the streets are a mess and would like to see an increase of twenty cents. He added; the price of oil is not going to go down.

Anthony Brown – stated that he opposes the raise and thinks there are other places to save money. (left meeting at 6:39pm)

Linda Rose – agreed with Brown.

Fran McCully - agreed with Brown then read aloud the written statement and comparison that she provided to Council.

Max Schrader – stated that it has been a long time since Troy has done anything with the roads. He added that if we put it off, soon it will be like the water fees that had to be increased hugely to make up for years of disregard. He stated that the price of oil is not going to go down.

David Norman, Public Works Director – explained the 15 year history of the City’s major projects and with the previous years of Council, the decision not to improve the streets at the time was made because they would be torn up with the water and sewer projects. Now the lines are two thirds new and the City is in good shape. He stated that it is not just the price of the oil, it is also for snow removal, cost of the snow plow, and the fuel for the snow removal. All these other things are part of the road maintenance. Norman advised of the interagency cooperation between the City Road Department, State Highway Department and the County Highway Department. He added; though it is appreciated, one cannot count on it, and with their assistance, Troy gets a lot for their dollar. Chip seal is a three year “bandage”, but hot mix is a twenty year street. It depends on the money up front. He stated his feelings that both are effective, it’s about the money you have to spend on it.

Laura Schrader – previous Council person and understands the fund also pays for sidewalks. She stated that she is in favor of an increase in Sprinkling and Oiling.

Fran McCully – understands that sidewalks in front of private property are paid for by the property owner, so what effect would that have on Sprinkling and Oiling? Coldwell stated that sooner or later we will run out of those citizens who are able to and if we want to continue the program it will come out of this. Discussion followed.

Linda Rose – asked; if we were not doing the streets when the projects were going on, where is all the money that should have been put aside? What was done with it? Coldwell stated that he doesn’t know, but gave some examples of improvements made to certain areas compared to those areas that didn’t have any.

Earl Teats – if it is not taken care of now, how much will it cost us citizens in the future? He gave knowledge of increased costs to repair roads. He stated that the costs will just keep going up. His opinion was to repair it now, to save money in the future.

Allison Lundin – commented that she is aware of constant repairs being done; but problem areas are still not being omitted. Without the proper materials to do them, they will keep being a problem. Citizens can pay now or have to pay later. Why not now while costs are less. She added that in her many travels, she has noticed that the earlier compared towns that have the same amount of street footage as Troy; but no Sprinkling and Oiling budget, also have gravel roads. She doesn’t see how they can be compared to Troy’s streets.

Fran McCully – If this is about the price of oil. She sees the need for street repairs; however, there is a potential of \$52,000 between Sprinkling and Oiling, and Gas Apportionment. She read aloud a list of line items that come out of Gas Apportionment.

Allison Lundin – Stated; that is the price is doing business, there are fixed costs that come out of everything.

Fran McCully – answered; we also have a General Fund.

Darren Coldwell – stated that those line items that were listed are not 100% paid out of Gas Apportionment, and gave examples. McCully asked if there is road maintenance in the General Fund and if so, when was it initiated. Coldwell answered; I don’t have a budget in front of me. I will get that to you.

Coldwell thanked everyone for their comments and advised of the next regularly scheduled meetings where the issue will be brought back.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Linda Rodriguez stated that she loves the sidewalks so residents do not have to walk on the roadways. Pierce asked for clarification on sidewalk funding. Coldwell explained. Pierce stated; first thing first is to do the roads, and then any leftover can be put toward sidewalks. Laura Schrader added; unless property owners pay to have theirs done. She added that the ordinances requiring owners to keep the sidewalks clear is unreasonable, as they were meant for smaller properties; whereas, here we have large parcels of land for aging owners.

ADJOURNMENT: Crystal Denton made a **Motion** to Adjourn the Public Hearing on Sprinkling and Oiling at 7:05 pm. Kimberly Rowse seconded her Motion. **Motion Carried.**

Darren Coldwell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tracy Rebo, City Clerk/Treasurer