

(The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. The full text of the minutes is available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.)

**West Branch, Iowa
Council Chambers**

City Council Work Session

**January 17, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Oaks opened the Work session by welcoming the audience and the following City staff: City Administrator/Clerk Matt Muckler, Deputy City Clerk Dawn Brandt, Library Director Nick Shimmin, Park & Rec. Director Melissa Russell, and Public Works Director Matt Goodale.

Council members: Mark Worrell, Jordan Ellyson, Colton Miller, Dan O'Neil and Jim Oaks.

City Engineer Dave Schechinger, P.E. – Discussion of Sidewalk Project Alternatives

Schechinger gave cost estimates for three sidewalk alternative options. Option one includes the Safe Routes to School grant, option two includes all sidewalks/no bridge, and option three is the priority routes. Options 2 and 3 do not use grant funds. Schechinger stated that his estimate on option 2 came in higher than the cost of option 1. Priority routes (option #3) includes in-house improvements by the Public Works department on the College Street Bridge. The first phase of the priority routes option (option #3) includes sidewalk construction on Poplar, Orange St. and Oliphant St. from Orange to Crestview. Public Works director Matt Goodale was asked what in-house improvements his department could provide to reduce the costs associated with Option #3. He said that Public Works staff could do the grading, signs, traffic control and the pavement marking.

O'Neil said that he was in favor of supporting option three. He said there would be fewer surprises due to getting bids up front and that we know what we are going to get. He said that it does not include all of the routes that the grant provides, but it puts the routes closest to the school as a priority.

Worrell supports option one, to go with the Safe Routes to School Grant. He would like a bridge on the south side near the future site of the new park. He thinks the construction market is hungry and feels the costs to the City will be less than estimated. Miller agreed with Worrell and expressed support for option one.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Worrell, second by O'Neil. City Council work session adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem, Jim Oaks

ATTEST: _____
Dawn Brandt, Deputy City Clerk