

City Administrator

From: Elizabeth Jackson <cityclerk@medfordminnesota.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:45 AM
To: City Administrator
Subject: FW: Main Street Concerns for the meeting

Elizabeth Jackson, CMC, MCMC
Medford City Clerk
(507) 455-2866

From: Sammon, Erin K. [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 4:11 PM
To: cityclerk@medfordminnesota.com
Subject: Main Street Concerns for the meeting

Hello,

I am unable to log on for the meeting.

Just wanted it documented that the Sammon Family that lives at 414 Main Street objects to the assessment plan for the Main Street Project.

We feel that we can do better with the amount that we the residents on that street will be charged. That number is astronomical for the 'updates' that are being made. We do not feel that sidewalks on both sides nor a turn lane are needed at this time. Parking is crucial for any area of town no matter where you live.

I personally would like to see this project on hold until we can meet in person to express our concerns and get heard in a fair manner and can ensure that we are heard.

I am not opposed to the water main improvements, but I feel that we need to find a cheaper alternative for the rest of the updates. Especially considering the Covid-19 crisis we are having, just because the council members may still be working and think this is a great idea, there are plenty of people on main street that are not working and this sort of financial strain will force us to move—which completely goes against Mayor Lois' previous remarks about "growing our community". Yes, those houses will be sold, but to who and how will they change our community if they are "bad residents". That is a road that I for one do not want to go down just because of a quick decision..... we as residents should have a fair say in what happens in the place we call home.

Thank you.

Erin Sammon
Appointment Services OB/GYN
Surgery Coordinator

Owatonna Mayo Clinic
2200 26th ST NW

April 16, 2020

Dear Medford City Council Members:

On Friday, April 3 we received the letter notifying us of the upcoming "public hearing" scheduled to address Medford's Main Street road project. Fearing that our voice may not be clearly understood at a virtual meeting, we felt compelled instead to write to each of you individually.

It is not a secret that we are not in favor of this major reconstruction of Main Street. At a recent open forum, we joined other local residents and business owners, expressing that opinion regarding the project. Although it was very clear that those in the audience were against the project, it is our observation that the council was listening to us and still keeping an open mind as to what to do. We appreciate that immensely! But now we know that the time has come for you to make your decision and we want you to know that this choice is now more critical than ever.

A month ago the property tax increase created by this project would have been a strain on our budgets and difficult to manage. But in light of the COVID-19 pandemic this additional financial impact could be catastrophic. As you look up and down Main Street you already see vacant buildings and buildings for sale. But now you can also see that the state "shut down" has forced other businesses to close until the pandemic subsides. Are these business going to survive? If so, an additional tax burden may be what causes their demise.

This is where you can help. We are aware that you have been told that this is your best opportunity to do this massive project. The county even stated that they were "out" if you didn't do it now. Being told that we need to "bite the bullet" now will be cheaper than waiting, is what is being said. But it is our plea that you will stand up for those of us most impacted and say no to the unrealistic and excessive plan that is before you. Instead of the citizens of Medford looking at you and saying that you missed an opportunity to repair infrastructure and beautify the Main Street in order to draw people to our town, by voting no to this massive project you will be saving your downtown during the most devastating economic crisis in its history! Drawing new business to town is what we want too, but salvaging the businesses you have today we sincerely hope is your priority. In addition, the home owners along Main Street are also facing new life and work changes that may be affecting their budgets. This additional tax increase would be coming at a time when people are just figuring things out again.

There are options to repairing the street that do not include major infrastructure reconstruction. It is our opinion that taking advantage of the money appropriated by Steele County to mill and overlay the road is financially the most prudent.

We respectfully request that you, as an elected official, help your constituents and downtown businesses by standing up for us and voicing our opinion. It's OK for you to vote no!

Sincerely,

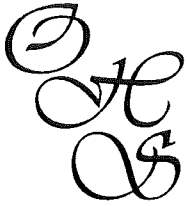
Dan & Mona Kaiser

Dan and Mona Kaiser
203 3rd St. SW
Medford, MN
507-451-8272

Cc: Steele County Commissioners

Please read this letter aloud at the hearing as part of the open comment section

Mona Kaiser



OUR HOMES SOUTH, INC.

113 NORTH MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 119
MEDFORD, MN 55049

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DENNIS K. BURGESS
PHONE: (507) 455-2114
Fax: (507) 455-2178
E-mail: ohsdir@hickorytech.net

Date: 05-13-2020


To: City of Medford

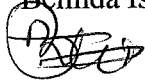
From: Our Homes South, Inc.

We (Our Homes South, Inc.) object to the main street assessment.

Thank you

Our Homes South, Inc.


Belinda Isaacson, ED



Danny Thomas
507 South Main St.

Written Comments and Questions for the Hearing on Improvements

1. Is this a reconstruction project?
2. Please GIVE an example on my property of how the 75% / 25% from county and 50% from city assessment is figured - Using actual figures from the project for street, overlay, new sidewalks, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, water mains, etc.
3. Show examples of the cost of street assessment for a width GREATER than 36 ft of road width. How does the width of the road affect my property with a road greater than 36ft?
4. Why are the linear foot costs not the same for all properties for road frontage and water lines? *(Cost per foot should be the same)*
5. How do city council members vote on a project when they DON'T understand how ASSESSMENTS work against property nor does the City Administrator understand assessments to property?
6. How does the city move forward with this project plan that is shovel ready but on hold ?
 - o UnKnown Coronavirus outcome and community effects
 - o Unknown State Aid
7. How does the current Mayor tell residents that she is planning to use OVERPAYMENT of BONDING MONEY to pay for sidewalks when the council has NOT voted on authorization of that form of payment?

I OBJECT THE ASSESSMENT

This project needs to be "SHOVEL READY" BUT put on hold until the Coronavirus and after the Fall election.

This project has too many unknown areas with the city budget and financial concerns. Look at the Medford Muni - NO INCOME and NO DONATIONS to the Fire Department- Businesses and people are struggling.

The community overall OBJECTS this project spending over 1,155,034 of TAXPAYERS dollars when their money should go towards the Fire Hall/ Fire Department for the safety of the community.

There are at least 4 people running for city council and mayor positions this fall showing that they are AGAINST this project and it should be put on hold until after the election.

This project needs to be ground and overlaid, Nothing more and no extra cost to the resident. It can be reassessed in January 2021 for future needs.

Many people cannot afford extra expenses at this time , some without jobs and not knowing what's going to happen.

The community should have more input on how OUR council and mayor are spending OUR money! This project needs to be broke down at a later date.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danny Thomas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the main body of text.

City Administrator

From: Andrew Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 3:56 PM
To: City Administrator
Subject: Comments for Main St. Meeting

Hi, Andy --

I have a comment/question for the meeting about the Main St. replacement:

I'd like more transparency for how the assessments are determined. I'd like to know the specific math that's involved, and how the city determines the assessment when there are multiple overlapping properties along Main St.

For example, compare my proposed assessment vs. Chad Merritt, my neighbor. Chad's property (501 S.) has direct frontage, mine (425 S.) does not:

	<u>Merritt</u>	<u>Miller</u>
Frontage	85 feet	87 feet
Street & Surface:	\$3,597.80	\$2,944.91
Storm Sewer:	\$1,486.94	\$1,982.59
Water Main:	\$4,935.64	\$4,884.85
Total:	\$9,969.60	\$9,863.14

I am only paying slightly less overall, despite the fact that there are multiple properties between my property and the actual road. Strangely, I'm paying 33% *more* for storm sewer.

This nets out to \$117.29/ft for Chad, and \$113.37/ft for me -- a negligible difference.

Thank you for helping me understand how this works.

Andy Miller
425 S. Main St.
Medford, MN 55049

Dave Mueller
109 Main St.

I OBJECT THE ASSESSMENT

As a Medford resident and business owner on Main street for over 30 years, I object to the reconstruction project plans and assessments the city is planning.

- This project and road closure would have a huge impact on my business during its busiest time . This could make an already tough time even tougher. With the change in business due to COVID-19, followed by a summer of construction , I am not sure if the business would be able to fully rebound from the effects of the project. .
 - What is the city / county going to do to support businesses and ensure no loss of business during this project?
 - How does the city plan to keep businesses along the Main street project fully accessible to everyone ?
- With the uncertain financial situation many businesses and residents are facing due to Covid-19 with the loss of income and jobs and having a new way of life. I feel it is unethical for the city to move forward on a road project that would put extra financial strain on the community.
- When looking at the project plans there are too many unknown numbers and prices that cause a big financial concern. We cannot just support a “we will get the numbers after the project is approved” plan. That is NOT fiscally responsible for the city/ county.

The community overall OBJECTS this project spending over 1,155,034 of TAXPAYERS dollars.

Throughout this project process the community has NOT had fair input on how OUR council is spending OUR money. Main street needs to be a ground and overlaid project until the economy regains stability. I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PROJECT!

I OBJECT THE ASSESSMENT!

City Administrator

From: MALONNA KROGH [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 4:29 PM
To: medford@medfordminnesota.com
Subject: Main St project

City of Medford,

We, James & Malonna Krogh @ 422 Main St. S., oppose the scope of the project being discussed for Main St (County Rd 45) in Medford. We also disagree and dispute the proposed assessments for the said project. We do agree that the road surface needs attention, which can be accomplished by a mill/overlay of new bituminous. With the current Covid 19 situation we are all dealing with, adding another financial burden to the residents in Medford is not and should not be a priority right now.

James & Malonna Krogh

Sent from my iPad=

City of Medford

Date: May 18th, 2020

To: Mayor & Council Members

RE: Improvement No. 2021-01

Below are a few questions I have regarding this project.

1. As a council you need to ask yourself a question about the so-called freezing water lines that have been talked about at past council meetings.
 - **If the water lines on Main Street have such a freezing problem, why aren't multiple residents calling the city demanding something gets fixed?**

2. We know the pipe is around 69 years old, but what we do not know is how good of shape this pipe is in since its below grade and we cannot see it. I have done a lot of reading on the internet regarding this pipe, and I do not know if anyone really knows the exact life expectancy of this material. According to Wikipedia the lifespan of this material could be up to 110 years. Remember the soil this pipe is sitting in is gravel with good drainage.
 - **If the water lines were in breaking in this area of town don't you think the residents would be calling the city complaining?**

3. The county is teaming up with the city on this project and they are requiring a turn lane. As a council you need to ask yourself this question:
 - **If the traffic is so congested why aren't the residents calling the city requesting something to be done to help eliminate this problem?**

Mayor and Council this is a major project that the city is looking at performing during very uncertain times with the new Covid-19 pandemic and that is why we are conducting a meeting like this. We do not even know when the country will be back up and running and now the city is still planning on moving forward with a \$2.7-million-dollar project that has some high assessments to the residents?

As residents that have lived on this road for around 16 years, both my wife and I see the amount of traffic on this road every day and feel the turn lane is unnecessary. We see the amount of people that walk by our home and feel the sidewalks would not be used very often. We have also lived through many winters and have only ran our water one winter when it was extremely cold. If you remember everyone in southern Minnesota was affected by this. We both feel that the City should step up to the plate for our Fireman and build them a new facility before any major projects like this are even considered, they have been asking for years. I know it has been said that we keep kicking the can down the road, but you cannot put another strain on the local businesses. If the city and county would perform a mill and overlay of this road, we would be all for that. Just look at how fast this was done down by Cabela's. If this project proceeds you will lose another year of Straight River Days and possibly some local businesses.

As a council my wife and I would like you to really sit back and ask yourself the following:

- **Do we really need a turn lane?**
- **Do we really want to eliminate a parking lane?**
- **Do we really need new curb and gutter?**
- **Do we really need a new 10" water main?**
- **Do we really need to replace a water main that has had 5 breaks in 69 years?
That is an average of one break every 13.8 years**
- **If Medford grows will it ever grow to the South?**
- **Do we really need 2 sidewalks?**
- **Do we really need any sidewalks?**
- **Do we really need new street lighting?**
- **Do we really want to impact the residents & businesses during these uncertain times?**
- **Do we really need to do this project?**

If you are unsure on any of the questions above, just remember its ok to vote NO.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad Merritt

City Administrator

From: Michael Prondzinski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 8:14 PM
To: medford@medfordminnesota.com
Subject: Main street project

I am writing to voice my concern about the Main St. project. I do feel that this is a project that should be completed, but at this time with economic uncertainty and people out of work myself included that this project be put on hold until after the economy recovers and people are back to work.

Michael & Tricia Prondzinski
514 S. MAIN ST.