



years ago. At that time, a rough estimate and design of a planter type "Welcome to Laurel" sign was done by Fisher and Associates. The \$30,000 sign is included in the first proposed project. The rough estimate is \$52,571 for that project.

The next proposed project is at the park on Alder Avenue, Nutting Park. The Alder project was completed with curb and gutter down the west side of Nutting Park. The proposed project would install the sidewalk adjacent to that curb and gutter. Some additional curb and gutter replacement is needed. In the Alder project, the elevation of the street right next to the park was raised to allow for the storm drain. The ditch elevation is so high that we had a really tall invert over the top of that and the curb and gutter drops very steep and then goes back in. The curb and gutter work in the proposed project would correct that by bringing the slope back for the curb and gutter so it flows evenly all the way down. That project would be about \$23,377.

The last proposed project is removal and replacement of curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the north side of Thomson Park, right across the street from the school. The curb and gutter is shot and the sidewalk is in rough shape. The numbers reflect curb and gutter replacement, as well as sidewalk on that side and curb and gutter only on the south side of the street. There is a little bit of sidewalk, curb, and gutter on the far end on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue that needs to be replaced. Thomson Park is a big park, and that is why the number is so high.

Those are the three proposed projects for the CTEP funds. There could be more projects and the priority could be shifted. At our current funding of the CTEP balance, the first two projects could still be done, including the Welcome to Laurel sign, which is a priority for a lot of people.

At the council workshop, there were some questions regarding the annual and monthly costs to the property owners in the SID, especially those with a fixed income. The largest assessment is \$3,000 a year, which is Schessler's property. Nathan Tubergen estimates that the bond will sell at about six percent over a twelve-year period. At \$3,000 annually, that is \$250 a month. Some of the more typical assessments are \$283 annually, which breaks out to about \$20 a month over the twelve-year period. There is the option to change the SID from twelve years to fifteen years. Typically, the increased interest paid would offset the benefit of lowering the price. There may be between a ten and fifteen percent reduction, which would equal about \$20 a month for twelve years on the assessments of around \$300 a year, and there may be \$42 savings a year for three additional years of payments. Steve said that the period would likely stay at twelve years.

The special improvement district total would be \$160,198.80. The assessment of the individual properties was shown on the sheet entitled "Special Improvement District Ownership."

Alderman Johnson asked if businesses and residents could write off the SID assessment on income taxes.

Steve stated that he thought the businesses could write it off as a business cost.

Steve clarified that the list of proposed CTEP projects included the estimated cost for each of the three projects. If SID No. 111 is approved with CTEP funding of \$100,000, it would still be possible to fund the first two projects of \$52,000 and \$23,000 as discussed. Additional CTEP funds are available each year.

Alderman Stevenson stated that the council did not discuss the difference in this project in the amount of use this street gets and the benefit it has to the entire community. It is not like other streets that are not an arterial street. This one is an arterial street and more people benefit from that than just the residents. Alderman Stevenson thinks that the use of the funds is quite prudent in this instance, and it seems to make sense to get it done. She liked the presentation and the use of the funds this way. When broken down into twelve-year totals, it is not exorbitant at all. She just spent \$9,000 on concrete work this year on her sidewalk and would have liked to have an SID at these rates. If anybody goes out and prices this, they know what kind of bargain they would get for it, and it is well worth it.

Alderman Poehls also liked the presentation and agreed that it is an excellent use of funds. He had not thought about the arterial issue with the CTEP funds, and he thinks it makes sense to set a precedence of using CTEP funds on arterials. Even if the figures were doubled, it would still be a doable issue. Alderman Poehls stated that the council needs to buckle down and make the decision.

Mayor Olson mentioned that, when the two-cent assessment for street maintenance came forward, he was looking for something to meet the community's needs. In the needs assessment survey, that particular street was the third street that the public wanted to see fixed. The first street was 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, which is being addressed. The second street was 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which is on the path to future completion. He believes the council is taking the direction of the community when they had an opportunity to bring forward what they want to see completed, which was work on East 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Mayor Olson takes the needs assessment survey as a mandate from the public, and he supports the proposed program to do it.

Alderman Easton stated that setting a precedence to install handicapped corners and alleys, as mandated by ADA, would not hurt any other project. If it is done on every street project, it would take some relief away from the corner property owner. He feels comfortable about using the CTEP money for this project and thinks it is money well spent.

Mayor Olson asked the council to present a motion directing staff and the city attorney to work with Dorsey & Whitney to prepare the resolution of intent in accordance with \$9.99 square foot assessment.

Motion by Alderman Poehls to direct staff and the City Attorney to work with Dorsey & Whitney to prepare the resolution of intent in accordance with the \$9.99 per square foot assessment, seconded by Alderman Dart.

Alderman Oakes questioned whether some of the assessments would be paid off over a period of twelve years and asked if most of the money would not be received for several years.

Steve explained that the city would have all of the money and the bond would be paid back over the twelve years, basically like a loan.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Alderman Easton to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Alderman Poehls. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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Cindy Allen, Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2005.

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Kenneth E. Olson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

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Mary K. Embleton, Clerk-Treasurer