

CHAPTER 429

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS, SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

429.041 Council procedure.

429.061 Assessment procedure.

429.041 COUNCIL PROCEDURE.

Subdivision 1. **Plans and specifications, advertisement for bids.** When the council determines to make any improvement, it shall let the contract for all or part of the work, or order all or part of the work done by day labor or otherwise as authorized by subdivision 2, no later than one year after the adoption of the resolution ordering such improvement, unless a different time limit is specifically stated in the resolution ordering the improvement. The council shall cause plans and specifications of the improvement to be made, or if previously made, to be modified, if necessary, and to be approved and filed with the clerk, and if the estimated cost exceeds \$25,000, shall advertise for bids for the improvement in the newspaper and such other papers and for such length of time as it may deem advisable. If the estimated cost exceeds \$100,000, publication shall be made no less than three weeks before the last day for submission of bids once in the newspaper and at least once in either a newspaper published in a city of the first class or a trade paper. To be eligible as such a trade paper, a publication shall have all the qualifications of a legal newspaper except that instead of the requirement that it shall contain general and local news, such trade paper shall contain building and construction news of interest to contractors in this state, among whom it shall have a general circulation. The advertisement shall specify the work to be done, shall state the time when the bids will be publicly opened for consideration by the council, which shall be not less than ten days after the first publication of the advertisement when the estimated cost is less than \$100,000 and not less than three weeks after such publication in other cases, and shall state that no bids will be considered unless sealed and filed with the clerk and accompanied by a cash deposit, cashier's check, bid bond, or certified check payable to the clerk, for such percentage of the amount of the bid as the council may specify. In providing for the advertisement for bids the council may direct that the bids shall be opened publicly by two or more designated officers or agents of the municipality and tabulated in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered by the council. Nothing herein shall prevent the council from advertising separately for various portions of the work involved in an improvement, or from itself, supplying by such means as may be otherwise authorized by law, all or any part of the materials, supplies, or equipment to be used in the improvement or from combining two or more improvements in a single set of plans and specifications or a single contract.

Subd. 2. **Contracts; day labor.** In contracting for an improvement, the council shall require the execution of one or more written contracts and bonds, conditioned as required by law. The council shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder or it may reject all bids. If any bidder to whom a contract is awarded fails to enter promptly into a written contract and to furnish the required bond, the defaulting bidder shall forfeit to the municipality the amount of the defaulter's cash deposit, cashier's check, bid bond, or certified check, and the council may thereupon award the contract to the next lowest responsible bidder. When it appears to the council that the cost of the entire work projected will be less than \$25,000, or whenever no bid is submitted after proper advertisement or the only bids submitted are higher than the engineer's estimate, the council may advertise for new bids or, without advertising for bids, directly purchase the materials for the work and do it by the employment of day labor or in any other manner the council considers proper. The council may have the work supervised by the city engineer or other qualified person but shall have the work supervised by a registered engineer if done by day labor and it appears to the council that the entire cost of all work and materials for the improvement will be more than

\$10,000. In case of improper construction or unreasonable delay in the prosecution of the work by the contractor, the council may order and cause the suspension of the work at any time and relet the contract, or order a reconstruction of any portion of the work improperly done, and where the cost of completion or reconstruction necessary will be less than \$25,000, the council may do it by the employment of day labor.

[For text of subds 3 to 7, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 38 s 1,2

429.061 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE.

Subdivision 1. Calculation, notice. At any time after the expense incurred or to be incurred in making an improvement shall be calculated under the direction of the council, the council shall determine by resolution the amount of the total expense the municipality will pay, other than the amount, if any, which it will pay as a property owner, and the amount to be assessed. If a county proposes to assess within the boundaries of a city for a county state-aid highway or county highway, including curbs, gutters, and storm sewers, the resolution must include the portion of the cost proposed to be assessed within the city. The county shall forward the resolution to the city and it may not proceed with the assessment procedure nor may the county allocate any cost under this section for property within the city unless the city council adopts the resolution approving the assessment. Thereupon the clerk, with the assistance of the engineer or other qualified person selected by the council, shall calculate the proper amount to be specially assessed for the improvement against every assessable lot, piece or parcel of land, without regard to cash valuation, in accordance with the provisions of section 429.051. The proposed assessment roll shall be filed with the clerk and be open to public inspection. The clerk shall thereupon, under the council's direction, publish notice that the council will meet to consider the proposed assessment. Such notice shall be published in the newspaper at least once and shall be mailed to the owner of each parcel described in the assessment roll. For the purpose of giving mailed notice under this subdivision, owners shall be those shown to be such on the records of the county auditor or, in any county where tax statements are mailed by the county treasurer, on the records of the county treasurer; but other appropriate records may be used for this purpose. Such publication and mailing shall be no less than two weeks prior to such meeting of the council. Except as to the owners of tax exempt property or property taxes on a gross earnings basis, every property owner whose name does not appear on the records of the county auditor or the county treasurer shall be deemed to have waived such mailed notice unless the owner has requested in writing that the county auditor or county treasurer, as the case may be, include the name on the records for such purpose. Such notice shall state the date, time, and place of such meeting, the general nature of the improvement, the area proposed to be assessed, the total amount of the proposed assessment, that the proposed assessment roll is on the file with the clerk, and that written or oral objections thereto by any property owner will be considered. The notice must also state that no appeal may be taken as to the amount of any assessment adopted pursuant to subdivision 2, unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the municipal clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The notice shall also state that an owner may appeal an assessment to district court pursuant to section 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the mayor or clerk of the municipality within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the district court within ten days after service upon the mayor or clerk. The notice shall also inform property owners of the provisions of sections 435.193 to 435.195 and the existence of any deferment procedure established pursuant thereto in the municipality. In addition, the notice mailed to the owner must state in clear language the following information:

- (1) the amount to be specially assessed against that particular lot, piece, or parcel of land;
- (2) adoption by the council of the proposed assessment may be taken at the hearing;

- (3) the right of the property owner to prepay the entire assessment and the person to whom prepayment must be made;
- (4) whether partial prepayment of the assessment has been authorized by ordinance;
- (5) the time within which prepayment may be made without the assessment of interest; and
- (6) the rate of interest to be accrued if the assessment is not prepaid within the required time period.

[For text of subds 2 to 4, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 5. Special assessments; administrative expenses. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a municipality shall pay to the county auditor all administrative expenses incurred by the county under subdivision 3 for each special assessment of any local improvement certified by the municipality to the county auditor.

History: 1993 c 375 art 5 s 33; art 17 s 17