

## STREETS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MEETING MINUTES

July 19, 2021

**In Attendance:** **Vermilion City Council:** *Steve Herron, President of Council; Emily Skahen, Ward One; Steve Holoavcs, Ward Three; Brian Holmes, Ward Five; Monica Stark, Council at Large; Frank Loucka, Ward Two. Absent: Barb Brady, Ward Four*

**Administration:** *Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Chris Hartung, Police Chief; Tony Valerius, Service Director*

**Call to Order:** Steve Holoavcs, Chairman, RESOLVED THAT this Streets, Buildings, & Grounds Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

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### **TOPIC ONE: Street Paving Cost Estimate for 1088 & 1089 Nautical Drive**

C. Howard indicated that per council's request they put together a cost estimate for approximately 200' long and 22' wide for the Nautical Drive Pavement Replacement. The total estimate is \$60,278.40.

B. Holmes said B. Brady had once mentioned this street was done by the residents originally and the city was not involved. S. Holoavcs confirmed this statement. He asked if this was a dedicated street. T. Valerius said those homes were allowed to be built on an undeveloped street and he believed the owners had the streets asphalted at some period of time and the city had nothing to do with it. The city plows the street, and they repair it. There was a main break down there over a year ago and the city fixed it.

S. Holoavcs said he asked for pricing because this came up again, so at least they know the costs. They can put this issue back to the administration and once they have money then maybe they can revisit this. He said the money for streets has been dedicated for 2021, but if there is money in 2022, then maybe this is an area they can look at. M. Stark agreed and said this is something they could look at next year and it is something to keep on the forefront because it is a street, and these people built their houses and put the road in on their own and they should have a street like everybody else gets in the community.

### **TOPIC TWO:Quiet Zones**

F. Loucka read a letter into the record from Marcy Kaptur, U.S. Representative, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as part of the official record of proceedings. He said as a progressive city, they may

want to make the first step to see what the city can get money wise. He said there are two quiet zones left; the most populous streets are Vermilion and Sunnyside. He said there are other options for quiet zones, and he contacted the City of Springfield, and they have Norfolk Southern, and their city is all along the tracks and they have at least six quiet zones. However, they are directional horns, and they are mounted at the crossings and are directed towards the tracks. This may be an option and future consideration.

Mayor Forthofer said a couple years ago there was a request from a resident for a consideration of a quiet zone on Sunnyside Road. Usually, the railroad wants you to consolidate by closing a crossing somewhere. He asked if there have been a number of requests to council members for quiet zones because he has not received any in the mayor's office. F. Loucka said he has because he lives along the river and the decibel sound carries along the canal and Nautical Drive gets the worst of it.

S. Herron thought he remembered an issue with the court having a problem with the constitutionality and enforceability of the quiet zone. Chief Hartung said it actually addressed the blocked crossing and Judge Lux made a determination in Erie County that municipalities did not have legal authority to regulate the crossings because it was covered under federal jurisdiction. He said they are seeing more blocked crossings on Sunnyside. He said the City of Huron is talking about the replacement project and they will be shutting down all their crossings because they are replacing massive stretches of track, so he imagines it is coming this way.

F. Loucka mentioned the website to view the Guide to the Quiet Zone Establishment Process is [www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov).

### **TOPIC THREE: OPWC Grant Application (Round 36)**

C. Howard explained that OPWC Applications for Round 36 are due on September 10. He provided council with a copy of streets the city discussed last year for submittal. They include: Hollyview Drive Reconstruction, Phase 2, from Forestview Drive to Mapleview Drive; Highbridge Road Reconstruction, Phase 2, from Brownhelm Station Road to Vermilion Road; and Berkley Road Reconstruction, Phase 1 from Liberty Avenue to west of Aldrich Road. He said council needs to decide which street or other streets they want to submit. In addition, they will submit an OPWC Application for the Liberty Avenue Waterline Replacement, Phase 2 project. He noted last year the city submitted an OPWC Application for Hollyview and they did not get it. M. Stark asked why they did not get the grant last year. C. Howard said it is based on points and usually they do a site visit to all the streets, but last year because of COVID obviously they were not driving around to all the sites. M. Stark said a couple months ago they had a large group of residents

from Hollyview come to council complaining about their drainage and road. Although these other two roads need work too, she would like to see the city try for Hollyview again. However, she does not want them to pass up the dollars if one of the other projects would rank higher. C. Howard explained they use the pavement condition rating and based on last year, Hollyview was rated at a 29.6 out of score of 100 and the others rated at 48.2 and 48.4.

B. Holmes said he hopes the administration can keep conversing with the township with regards to Brownhelm Station Road because it would be nice to finish out Highbridge and then maybe do a section of Brownhelm.

S. Herron said council needs to prepare legislation for the August 2 meeting if they want to submit the applications in time. S. Holovacs said council needs to agree with one of the three unless there is another option. E. Skahen asked if they had to choose between the three or can they add another street. C. Howard said if there are more streets to consider they can advise. E. Skahen said they have received a lot of complaints about the sewers on Elberta and around those streets. She asked if they could bring other options to the August 2 meeting. T. Valerius said they probably will not have enough time because usually they submit a road project each year and then a waterline because they are under rules from the EPA – they have a 10-year plan for replacement. He said the city really does not do sewers. The storm sewers would be funded through the city. Mayor Forthofer said any time council has streets they want considered for repair they can be added to the list by advising the administration. G. Fisher said Elberta ditches will be on the Streets, Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting next month per the request of a resident.

S. Holovacs said he lives on this section of Hollyview and Hollyview has been fixed on both ends and this is the last section. If you look at the rating it is the worst street listed. He will not vote for Hollyview because he lives there, but he would recommend to council to take care of the worst streets first – this is probably the oldest street in the group.

F. Loucka said it appears the best chance to get a grant would hopefully be Hollyview because it is rated so low.

**M. Stark MOVED**, F. Loucka seconded to have legislation prepared to submit the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Grant (Round 36) for Hollyview Drive Reconstruction, Phase 2 from Forestview Drive to Mapleview Drive. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS, (Holmes, Herron, Stark, Skahen, Loucka); 1 ABSTENTION (Holovacs). **MOTION CARRIED.**

**S. Herron MOVED**, S. Holovacs seconded to have legislation prepared to submit the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Grant for the Liberty

Avenue Waterline Replacement, Phase 2. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**TOPIC FOUR: Safe Routes to School, Phase 1 Project Bid Award**

C. Howard provided council with correspondence relating to the bid tabulation for the Safe Routes to School, Phase 1 project. Two bids were received, and the low bidder was Smith Paving and Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$376,779.60. This project is 100% funded by the state. He said they need council approval to allow them to enter into a contract contingent upon ODOT's approval. He said the engineer's estimate for the project was \$472,356.94, so the bid came in less. G. Fisher said the ordinance is on the agenda tonight for approval.

M. Stark said it is exciting this is finally getting done. They have been talking about this for years, so she is thrilled they are getting sidewalks because there are a lot of students that walk down Sanford to and from school, so it will be much safer for the students and citizens. S. Herron agreed 100% and said it will be friendly for folks with disabilities and for the opportunity to get out and get exercise in a safe environment.

S. Holoavacs said they have elevation problems with driveways – will this be corrected with this also, and do they have all the easements secured for the project. C. Howard explained the driveways that were left stone will be fixed and they are staying within the right-of-way and obviously they have grading permits. He said some of the drives will be fixed, but not all of them.

S. Herron asked C. Howard if he had the numbers to insert into Ordinance 2021-54, which is the Bramhall Construction Observation and Contract Administration Services related to this project. C. Howard said it is \$55,643.00, which is 100% state funded.

S. Holoavacs asked when the project would begin – will this be done before school? C. Howard said they will be done before school, but the completion date is mid-October. From the time ODOT encumbers the money it will probably take three to four weeks before they have a preconstruction meeting. Once it is approved, it will have to go through the ODOT process for approval.

S. Holoavacs adjourned the meeting after no further business came before the committee.

Next meeting: August 9, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. – Vermilion Municipal Complex,  
687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio

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Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk