

STREETS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2020

Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio

In Attendance: **Vermilion City Council:** *Steve Herron, President of Council; Monica Stark, Council at Large; Emily Skahen, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five; Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*

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

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

TOPIC ONE: Riverside Drive (Easement Update)

C. Howard reported the city received a title report for the subject property at 1019 Riverside Drive and there is no storm sewer easement on this property. F. Loucka asked if the administration would be requesting an easement. C. Howard said they can but are they going to reroute it because the pipe just comes over the side of the hill, so it really does not solve the problem and they need more than this. B. Holmes said if the city cannot get an easement, they cannot do anything. He said they would need to look at the costs. B. Brady asked what has changed; why is it different now from five years ago? F. Loucka said it has been going on for years and the residents are getting tired of it. B. Holmes said the runoff is greater and over time, the fallout has eroded causing more of a cascading effect of the water. The rain events are certainly greater than in the past, but without an easement, Council would need to fall back on the engineer and service director on what the city can do. S. Holovacs said if they get an easement would this issue need to be taken before the Stormwater Committee or would the administration and council need to look at this. C. Howard suggested taking this before the Storm Water Committee because they need to figure out how to fund this. F. Loucka said the solution is running the pipe down to the river. C. Howard said this is the only way they could. F. Loucka said it is like Niagara Falls and it ends up flooding the back yards. C. Howard said if the Storm Water Committee approves it for funding and Council agrees, the outlet still goes to the river and the water goes to the place of least resistance. The water is going to bubble out like it does now, so to say it is going to go away is not true. It will still flood down there.

TOPIC TWO:OPWC Projects

C. Howard said the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant and loan application for Round 35 is due Friday, September 11. He commented three projects were up for consideration: Hollyview Drive Reconstruction Phase II (Forestview Drive to Mapleview Drive). The pavement condition is used, and this pavement section is rated 29.6. Additionally, they included Highbridge Road Reconstruction Phase II (Brownhelm Station Road to Vermilion Road) and it has a pavement condition rating of 48.4, and Berkley Road from Liberty Avenue to just west of Aldrich has a pavement rating condition of 48.2. Obviously, each street as different pavement lengths and widths. He said Highbridge Road is a 4' paved shoulder with two 11' lanes, and Berkley would be two 11' lanes with a 2' paved shoulder. He provided construction cost estimates for each project and asked Council to recommend one of the three proposed projects so they can make application. In addition, they will apply for a water line project. He noted that ordinances are on the Council meeting agenda for emergency passage tonight once Council decides on which project they will proceed with. He said they will be submitting for the Liberty Avenue Water Replacement Phase II which is about 2,500 feet of 12' water main replacement from South Shore Court to Niagara Road. Obviously, they will apply for grant and loan monies.

B. Brady said she would love to have Berkley Road done as it is a safety issue more than a pavement issue. It is a way for adults/kids to get out of VOL; to get anywhere. The wider they can make it to make it a bike or walking lane would be great. C. Howard said if they look at widening it they will get into a lot of storm sewer improvements, which would drive up the cost and they would have to shorten up the roadway length if this is how council wants to proceed. B. Brady said they would need to have 2' berms. C. Howard said with a bike lane he believes they have to provide the 2' berms on both sides because you're forcing the bikes onto one direction of flow.

F. Loucka said the pavement condition rating for Hollyview is much lower on a scale of 100. B. Holmes said he would like to see Highbridge in Ward Five get done as it is heavily traveled now with the bridge being open. He suggested the city should go after the metro parks to see if they will throw in some money and add a bike lane. Again, Hollyview is also a very busy street and a lot of people live there and many travels to and from school, and the pavement rating speaks for itself. He thought they could continue to research Highbridge for some more funding. He said Berkley needs sidewalks and it has been like this since he has been a kid. E. Skahen said if they have a 2' paved shoulder this would give them a lot of room on the side of the road, so what would be difference of not having sidewalks. C. Howard said if they put sidewalks in will they be filling ditches in and adding storm sewers. It is not as simple as just putting a sidewalk down and you need certain separation from the travel lane to the sidewalk, so you do not want to put it right up against the roadway.

M. Stark agreed they should proceed with the project that has the pavement rating which expresses the higher need. The area of Hollyview feels like they are traveling through a war zone. Another road she was shocked that was not

included was Brownhelm Station Road and felt the city needs to do something with this soon. C. Howard said there is no rhyme or reason as he is trying to give council choices on what makes the most sense for the city. He said when they apply for OPWC grants they must look for traffic volume and Brownhelm Station unfortunately does not have a lot of traffic volume. They are aware of the condition of Brownhelm Station and it will cost a lot of money. M. Stark asked if the township could help pitch in money to fix Brownhelm Station Road at some point. T. Valerius said this would be a possibility as they have helped the city with other roads. C. Howard said Brownhelm Station Road would be a complete tear out as it's beyond a mill and fill or chip and seal.

S. Herron said when Council picks one street they are not saying they are disrespecting another because this simply is not the case. He would say Hollyview would benefit the most citizens, but agreed the other two streets are a mess too.

S. Holovacs said he lives on this section of Hollyview and it is the last section that will finish Hollyview. In 1999, they did the first section from Beechview to Mapleview, and for many years they did not do anymore, but this last year they took care of Sanford to Forestview. He said it is bad enough where you cannot drive fast. He will not be a resident in Ward Three when this project would proceed because he is selling his house and is building on the east side. As a council member he thinks it would be a good completion of a nice street that is a thoroughfare through the Hollyview/Valleyview area.

B. Holmes said on Sunnyside they are going to add the bike lane, so again they should look at approaching the metro parks to see if they will pitch in. C. Howard said with MPO they have money for the future for Sunnyside.

C. Howard said they give an estimate on these projects based on length and they can bid it out either way. He will include base stabilization on the project council chooses.

S. Holovacs said from what he hears from most of the Council the Hollyview Drive Reconstruction project has the most encouraging support to proceed.

S. Holovacs MOVED, F. Loucka seconded to proceed with applying for OPWC grant money for the Hollyview Drive Reconstruction Phase II project. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS; 1 ABSTENTION (Holovacs). **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

Next meeting: September 21, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio.

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Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk
