

STREETS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2020

via Zoom

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

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: Woodlands Entrance Options

Chris Howard reviewed the Woodlands Drive/Liberty Avenue intersection as requested by City Council last month. He reviewed two (2) exhibits of optional layouts for consideration. The first exhibit showing the turning movement required for the Vermilion Fire Truck (Aerial) heading east, and the second exhibit shows the turning movement required for a School Bus heading east bound. His recommendation is that any improvements done to the intersection be designed to accommodate the Fire Truck. He said they looked at widening the intersection for a School Bus, but he felt the Fire Truck should control the intersection, so that is why he included the layout for the Fire Truck which was based on information he received from the Fire Chief. He said they would need to widen the right of way and it would require utility pole relocation. He feels this layout best serves the intersection. He noted the Woodlands sign would also need to be relocated with this option. There is a lot of paved shoulders so there is room when the fire truck makes the turn.

B. Holmes asked if any properties would be affected with the second option with the fire truck – will they lose any frontage? C. Howard said no because technically where the sign is located is State of Ohio property. B. Holmes said he meant the property on the south side of the road. C. Howard said no as it is within the right of way.

B. Brady asked C. Howard if the city is deeming this a safety issue and if this corner is dangerous to the residents in and out. C. Howard felt it is a safety issue right now because there are concerns with vehicles safely making the turn and people speeding up to 45 mph coming over the bridge. B. Brady

asked if the argument is making the turn faster. C. Howard said no they would be making the turn safely because if a car is sitting at the stop sign trying to get onto Liberty Avenue, sometimes they block the area when others try to get in. He said there has been a history of people hitting the landscaping rocks around the sign when entering the Woodlands.

M. Stark said this is a great plan as she lived in the Woodlands for 14 years and had many close calls trying to get out and people almost hitting her, and trying to get into the neighborhood from Liberty is difficult and it can cause you to sit on Liberty waiting to get into the Woodlands. She said it is a very dangerous intersection and she is very happy to see this plan even though she does not live there anymore.

S. Holovacs asked the city engineer if he could provide council with cost estimates. C. Howard said he is working on cost estimates for council.

TOPIC TWO: 2019/2020 Sidewalk Program – Liberty Avenue (Res. 2019R-2 adopted February 4, 2019)

F. Loucka wanted to bring this ordinance back to light since the property owners had two years to install sidewalks, and the deadline of June 1, 2021 is approaching. He said this reminded him as he saw a gentleman in a battery powered wheelchair in front of Martino's trying to go along the grass where the sidewalk would be. However, he understands there will be a water line installed, so the sidewalk installation would need to be delayed.

C. Howard said the city received OPWC money last year for the Liberty Avenue Water Line Replacement Phase 1 project and they will be replacing the 12" water line from Vermilion Road to South Shore Court. These plans are being worked on now and the project will be put out to bid this winter, with an early construction in January. He recommended that the property owners not install their sidewalk until after the water line is done in this section. He said there is no sense installing sidewalk and tearing it out. He said council may want to consider changing the deadline date in the Ordinance until September of 2021. He explained the city applied for funding for OPWC funding for Phase 2, which is from South Shore Court to close to Berkley. They heard word that the city might be getting funding for that as well, but they have not officially got the funding, but he would want to delay that sidewalk installation as well. F. Loucka agreed and asked if his recommendation would be to add another year to the overall program. C. Howard said council may want to extend it another year. F. Loucka asked if October of 2022 would be reasonable if the city would get the funding for Phase 2. C. Howard said it should be if the project is done in 2021, then it would give them four to five months to complete the sidewalks. F. Loucka

said one date would make it clearer until they finish the entire project. B. Holmes agreed it would be wise to extend the deadline date.

C. Howard explained that Linwood Park did install their sidewalk recently and the city tried to talk them out of doing it. They have a potential tenant and they wanted to get the sidewalk installed. Unfortunately, he explained to them that it will probably get torn out and replaced. They also tried to talk Northwest Bank out of installing their sidewalk, but they said they wanted to do it this year.

S. Holovacs MOVED, B. Holmes seconded to amend Resolution 2019R-2, whereby owners of each lot and parcel of land bounding and abutting on the proposed sidewalk shall construct that portion of sidewalk along Liberty Avenue which abuts their property, on or before October 1, 2022. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

TOPIC THREE: Haber Road Street Vacation

F. Loucka said the residents to the north of Haber Road are looking to sell their property and they came to the city looking for a way to get the street vacated. It turns out they have buildings built in the actual paper right of way, which would require an easement from their neighbor. He clarified the procedure with his understanding that the resident should apply to the Planning Commission to request a street vacation. Once it is approved by Planning then it comes before City Council and Council introduces an ordinance to approve the street vacation, subject to the replating of that area, which would be at the cost of the requestor according to G. Fisher's research.

C. Howard said this is a unique situation and he reviewed the area with council by sharing his screen so they could see the area in question. He showed council the paper street of Haber Road and said the property owner in question owns the first three parcels east of Haber Road off State Street. To vacate they would need to prepare a vacation plat and go before the Planning Commission for approval, and then it would come before City Council for approval.

F. Loucka asked if they need to expend the funds for the replat without knowing it will be approved. C. Howard said this is correct and they advised them that typically the owners pay for the vacation plat. He understands this was brought up at a previous council meeting in which council was looking at getting rid of some of the paper streets in the city, so this is why they thought it was a good idea to bring it to a committee meeting. He said it is going to cost more than a \$1,000 and less than \$5,000 to do this.

B. Brady said when they vacate - do not the property owners on each side get half of the street. C. Howard said this is correct. B. Brady said this is not going to help these residents. F. Loucka said it will as they will get more property. B. Brady said they will only get half of it – isn't there buildings spanning the whole property? F. Loucka said the residents have an easement from their neighbor allowing the garage to remain, so this is between the property owners. B. Brady asked if they understand they will only get half the street. F. Loucka confirmed they understood this.

F. Loucka confirmed the residents must expend the funds for a replat prior to coming to the Planning Commission. C. Howard said they would have to provide a vacation plat to Planning Commission for approval.

TOPIC FOUR: Baumhart Bridge Maintenance

C. Howard advised council that legislation is requested at the next council meeting to approve consent legislation for ODOT to do bridge maintenance work on the State Route 2 bridge over Baumhart Road. There is no cost to the City as it is just the city's consent. He said ODOT needs this legislation approved so they can budget it for next year.

S. Holovacs MOVED, F. Loucka seconded to put the consent legislation on the agenda for a first reading at the November 16 Council meeting. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

Next meeting: December 14, 2020 @ at time and location to be determined

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk
