

Public Works Committee
Tuesday January 16, 2018 @ 4:30 PM
Fire Station Training Room, 401 E Main St

Members Present: Alderpersons Pat O'Connor, Michael Engelberger, Greg Jenson and Sid Boersma

Absent/Excused:

Staff: Planning Director Rodney Scheel, Street Supervisor John Halverson and Vickie Erdahl

Guests: Alderperson Regina Hirsch, Todd Larsen, Chandra Malmquist, Dan & Mary Jo Davis, Jason Dickens and Paul & Teresa Reedy

Call to Order: O'Connor called the meeting to order

1) **Communications:** *Hebert* reported:

- Discussed how the street department plows when there is a long storm event – keep the mains open and plow the secondary streets when storm has finished. On the secondary streets there is only two blocks before a main is reached.

2) **Reports:** *Erdahl* stated street openings permits were over the average for the year.

Old Business:

3) **Public Works Facility Update:** *Hebert* stated that there was a pre-bid meeting last week which was well attended so the city is hopeful that it will receive 708 bids for the project. The bids are due on January 25th. After the bids are received Angus Young will doing the vetting process and then the streets will review.

4) **Review and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Revisions to Ordinance 10-2(d)-Construction Standards-Terrace Trees and to Create City Ordinance Section 66-904(13)-Terrace Trees:** *Hebert* stated that after review of current ordinance 10-2(d), it was found that it may violate the “development exaction” law under the 5th Amendment. The city attorney issued a statement outlining his concerns which were included in the packet. The attorney also has concerns that the current ordinance violates the equal protection laws because it requires owners or developers of commercial or multi-family property who are proposing an addition to their property to pay for city trees, while exempting single family homes from paying fees for tree installation. *Hebert* presented the revised proposed ordinance 10-2(d) that allows for the city to charge for the plating of terrace trees for new construction on previously undeveloped lots within the city. New construction that are part of a subdivision will require tree planting under Section 66-904(13). The ordinance also contains more detail for a clearer understanding on the number of trees and sizes that need to be planted. Additions to existing properties will not be charged for trees as it is deemed to be unlawful. The city can still use operating funds to plant trees in the right-of-way if we so choose. Landscaping plans on private property are still enforced.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Engelberger to recommend to the Common Council to adopt the Ordinance 10-2(d) Construction Standards-Terrace Trees and Ordinance Chapter 66-904(13) as presented in the packet. Motion carried 3-0

New Business:

5) **Approve December 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Engelberger, seconded by Boersma to approve the minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

6) **2018 Road Construction Project Plans – Kristi Lane, Vernon St and Gjertson St:** *City residents spoke on their concerns:*

Gjertson St – Dan & Mary Jo Davis of 925 Hamilton St distributed a handout with pictures to show their property to show history and state some concerns with the current plan. This street is being narrowed nine feet with sidewalks installed on both sides of the street in this block.

The Davis's stated the following:

- They have 25 trees that are 50 yards old and 40 ft. tall and do not want to lose
- These trees provide privacy and block the view and noise of Dollar General which if removed the owner would have to put up a privacy fence
- The trees have been maintained and do not block the view of traffic
- There are no sidewalks on Gjertson St to the south or north
- When the house was built in was in the township
- Does not want the expense of a retaining wall
- Very little foot traffic on this street as there are only two homes in the block
- These trees are a valuable part of the yard and provide wildlife habitat

(O'Connor left the meeting @ 5:00 PM)

The owners are requesting a review to see if there are any other options, such as the sidewalk being placed closer to the curb and gutter, so that the trees can remain when the sidewalks are put in.

Planning Director Scheel will be working with the residents to see if anything can be modified. Scheel stated that perhaps the curb line could be adjusted for this property and that there are certain requirements that need to be met if the sidewalk is moved closer to the curb and pedestrian safety is also a concern.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Engelberger to direct staff to work with the residents on modifications (if possible) and bring back to the Public Works Committee. Motion carried 3-0.

Kristi Lane - Paul & Teresa Reedy of 1233 Vernon St gave some history and state some concerns with the current plan. This street is being narrowed two feet on each side and sidewalks being installed.

The Reedys stated the following:

- They have arborvitae trees that are 50 years old and do not want to lose them
- No need to add sidewalk to the sub-station that is at the dead end and shouldn't encourage kids to walk down there
- Very little traffic on this one block street except the current residents
- Utility trucks can already turn around at the sub-station, so there is no need to extend
- Bigger concern is the poor drainage on the west side of the intersection of Kristi and Vernon

- Feel the curb and gutter are good

The owners are requesting a review to see if there is any possibility that the sidewalk could be moved in order to save the trees. These trees also need to be trimmed.

Motion by Engelberger, seconded by Boersma to direct staff to work with the residents on modifications (if possible) and bring back to the Public Works Committee. Motion carried 3-0.

Vernon St – Jason Dickens of 227 S Academy St had some questions because of the grade of his property and space. This street is having sidewalk installed on the north side. Retaining walls will be installed to accommodate the sidewalk.

Jason stated:

- The sidewalk would be five feet from his garage and he would not be able to park because his car would block the sidewalk.
- It would reduce ¼ of his property space
- He already put in a retaining wall which now would have to be taken out and then another wall installed further in on the property

Mr. Dickens is requesting that the sidewalk be reviewed for any possibility that it could be installed closer to the curb.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Engelberger to direct staff to work with the residents on modifications (if possible) and bring back to the Public Works Committee. Motion carried 3-0.

- 7) **Review and Possible Action Regarding a Proposed 2018 Fee Adjustment for City Tree Planting:** *Hebert* explained that annually the planting costs are reviewed. A handout was provided showing the high/low costs for tree purchases and the cost to plant. These costs were averaged and provided a cost for the city to base their fees on.

Hebert is requesting a \$50.00 reduction to charge for trees in 2018 based on these calculations which lowers the cost from \$350.00 to \$300.00 per tree. The forms will be modified and given to the Planning Department.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Engelberger to approve the cost reduction from \$350.00 to \$300.00 per tree. Motion carried 3-0.

- 8) **Future Agenda Items:** PW Facility Update , 2018 Street Reconstruction

Moved by Boersma seconded by Engelberger to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 pm. Motion carried 3-0. Respectfully submitted by Vickie Erdahl Administrative Assistant – 1/17/18.