

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS
September 18, 2019
Government Center Room 204

Members Present: Keith Kern, Jenny Van Sickle, Brent Fennessey (alt)

Members Excused: Esther Dalbec

Also Present: Chris Carlson, Angie Harker, Shelley Nelson, Thor Trone, Mayor Jim Paine, Tylor Elm, Ada Tse, Tonia Kittelson, Aryana Buck, Joel Certa-Werner, Don Johnson

1. Approval of August 21, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION by Fennessey, seconded by Van Sickle, and carried to approve the Public Works Committee minutes of August 21, 2019.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Fennessey and carried to suspend the rules and move item #4 up on the agenda.

4. Councilor Elm: Consider calendar parking exemption for Faith United Methodist Church (1531 Hughitt Ave) on Sundays and Tuesdays.

Pastor Joel Certa-Werner and church member Don Johnson explained that as of late, church members, volunteers and visitors have been receiving tickets for violating calendar parking. They explained that they do not have adequate off-street parking for their large congregation and indicated they have large groups of volunteers that visit in the summer, along with a busy food pantry that is open on Tuesdays. There was a lengthy discussion and committee members and staff felt that caution should be exercised in approving exemptions such as this, as more requests are likely to come forward. There was a discussion about considering a comprehensive solution/uniform policy to refer to when such requests are brought forth.

MOTION by Fennessey, seconded by Kern, and carried to approve a calendar parking exemption for Faith United Methodist Church (1531 Hughitt Ave) on Sundays from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from noon – 8 p.m., on Hughitt Avenue between the alley south of Belknap Street to North 16th Street.

2. Tabled from the August 21, 2019 meeting: Public Works Director Janigo & Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director Cadotte: Tree abatement assistance program draft.

Mayor Jim Paine provided an update on the research staff has done to try to create a program regarding tree abatement on private property. He cited challenges that came to light such as how to create a uniform, fair policy that would equitably serve the entire city, the scope of risk and the vast number of trees on private property. He stated it became evident that this was a bigger challenge than anyone realized and that \$10-15,000 would not practically do much at all considering the high cost of tree removal. He indicated that staff were looking to the committee for further direction at this time. The committee discussed the issue at length. One suggestion made was to implement a program like the City's alley paving program where the costs of tree removal would be assessed to homeowners over a ten-year period. After consideration, the committee felt that the Urban Forestry Tree Board would be a more appropriate place for this matter.

MOTION by Van Sickle, seconded by Fennessey, and carried to refer the tree abatement assistance program draft to the Urban Forestry Tree Board.

MOTION by Fennessey, seconded by Van Sickle, and carried to suspend the rules and move item #5 up on the agenda.

5. Councilor Elm: Consider designating the first parking space outside Empire Coffee (1204 Tower Ave) as a 5-minute pickup/drop off space.

Aryana Buck, owner of Empire Coffee explained that customers have difficulty finding parking near her business and the thought was to create one limited time space to allow customers to park for a short time to pick up coffee, etc. The various parking options around the coffee shop were reviewed. Although the committee was sympathetic to the request, concerns were voiced about creating parking spots for specific businesses in the downtown where parking is already limited.

MOTION by Van Sickle, seconded by Kern, and carried to deny the request to designate the first parking space outside Empire Coffee (1204 Tower Ave) as a 5-minute pickup/drop off space.

Councilor Van Sickle left the meeting at 6 p.m. but there was still a quorum.

3. Public Works Director Janigo: Relocation of gate at 44th Avenue East.

Assistant Public Works Director Chris Carlson explained that this area has long been a spot for illegal dumping and the city repeatedly removes large amounts of debris. He also mentioned that there is a rudimentary, unofficial boat launch in the area that people use, which has been deemed potentially dangerous due to rebar protruding from the water just off the shore. Traffic Lieutenant Trone indicated there are frequent police calls to this area due to a variety of illegal activities and the police department would be in favor of relocating the gate. There are ice racing events that have traditionally used this area in the winter and it was suggested that these groups continue to have access. Carlson stated that the City would have a key to the gate.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Fennessey, and carried to approve the relocation of the gate at 44th Avenue East.

6. Councilor Kern: Resident's request for sidewalk elimination at 1925 Lackawanna Avenue, on North 20th street from Lackawanna Avenue to the alley.

Kern indicated the section of sidewalk is on the side of the home at 1925 Lackawanna and does not connect to any other sidewalk. Pictures of the sidewalk were shared and it is very old and in bad shape.

MOTION by Fennessey, seconded by Kern, and carried to approve the sidewalk elimination at 1925 Lackawanna Avenue, on North 20th street from Lackawanna Avenue to the alley.

7. Councilor Fennessey: Consider changing 3-way stop to a yield on Laurel Ave/ 6th Ave E / E 9th Street. Fennessey explained that he was contacted by a constituent who indicated that people don't often obey the stop signs at this intersection and it was suggested to change it to a yield instead. Fennessey indicated about half the residents in the area were okay with the proposed change, and roughly half opposed it. Trone was not in favor of changing the stops to a yield citing the danger of uncontrolled intersections. He also stated the sight lines at this intersection are not good and indicated that stop signs are the correct traffic control.

MOTION by Fennessey, seconded by Kern, and carried to deny changing the 3-way stop to a yield on Laurel Ave/ 6th Ave E / E 9th Street.

8. ESD Water Resources Specialist Ada Tse: Revision of City Code Sec. 104 Property Maintenance and Housing Code.

Carlson and ESD Water Resources Specialist Ada Tse provided some background regarding the changes being proposed to the code, which resulted from the green infrastructure audit. Carlson outlined some

concerns that Councilor Ruth Ludwig had sent via email as she was unable to attend the meeting. The committee decided that the matter could be held until the next meeting to allow Ludwig to attend for further discussion.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Fennessey, and carried to table the revision of City Code Sec. 104 Property Maintenance and Housing Code.

9. Public Works Director Janigo: Recommendation to purchase (1) 2020 Fleet Chevrolet Equinox AWD vehicle for the Environmental Services Division for a total cost of \$23,573.00.

Carlson explained that the Equinox would replace ESD's 2008 Chevy Uplander van.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Fennessey, and carried to approve the purchase of (1) 2020 Fleet Chevrolet Equinox AWD vehicle for the Environmental Services Division for a total cost of \$23,573.00.

10. ESD Director's Report

Committee members received ESD Director Roberts report via email. There were no questions.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Fennessey, and carried to receive and file the ESD Director's Report.

11. Public Works Director's Report.

Carlson indicated that the paving season is wrapping up with the crew working in the area of the Winter Street Industrial Park at this time. The line striping is complete along with the removal of old lines on specific streets. Two large culvert projects are in the works for late fall/early winter at 54th Avenue East and East 3rd and on Moccasin Mike Road. We are in the final process of the design phase and the plan is for the projects to go out for bid next month.

Kern announced the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

The next Public Works Committee meeting will be held October 16 at 5 p.m. in Room 204 of the Government Center.

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of October 1, 2019.