

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting Summary**

**May 26, 2021**

#### **Attendance:**

**Scott Gehring, Chair**  
**Chris Hilberg, Vice Mayor**  
**Tom Henning, Council Member**  
**Lori Thompson, Assistant City Manager**  
**Sam Morton, Kleingers Engineering**

#### **Guests:**

**Cynthia Gernetzke and Jackie Koopman**

The meeting was held via Zoom Teleconference in accordance with State and Local Laws.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.

**2021 Street Repair Program/Osceola Sidewalk Request.** Mr. Gehring introduced and gave background information regarding the topic. At the 5/24/21 Council meeting, residents of Osceola Dr. requested consideration of the installation of sidewalks during the repaving project on the street in 2021 or to push the street re-paving to the 2022 Street Program.

Mr. Gehring asked if it was possible to pull together sidewalk engineering and cost estimates so as to include in the 2021 Street Program. Mr. Morton indicated that the sidewalk portion could be bid as an alternative in 2021 or could be pushed to 2022. He said that a cost estimate would not take long to develop, but the required engineering work and surveying may present a time crunch if sidewalks are incorporated into the 2021 program. Mr. Morton also stated that due to the complexity of the current project on Osceola, that he would recommend pushing the entire project back if we were to include sidewalks as a part of the reconstruction of the road. Mr. Gehring asked if constructing sidewalks at a later date would significantly impact the cost. Mr. Morton indicated that in his experience constructing sidewalks with the road project or at a later date as a standalone project would not have a material impact on the cost.

Mr. Gehring indicated that the City does not have the revenue in this year's budget to cover the cost of installing sidewalks and does not want to hold up the Osceola reconstruction project, especially if there is no material cost savings by including the sidewalks with the road project. Mr. Hilberg agreed.

The committee discussed that a change in City sidewalk funding policy would need to happen before the public works committee would be positioned to develop a sidewalk installation program. This would also need to be budgeted appropriately through Budget and Finance committee which would likely require cuts in other city services. At this point to install a sidewalk on Osceola the residents on Osceola will need to submit a petition and will need to get 51% of the residents to approve the assessment in order for the sidewalk project to move forward. If more than half of the residents agree to the assessment for the cost of the sidewalk, it can be installed and all residents on the street can be assessed an equal share over a 20-year period.

The committee agreed to have Mr. Morton prepare a cost estimate for sidewalks and to share that information with the residents, so they can make an educated decision on how they want to proceed. Mr. Morton will provide an estimate that will include the cost of the sidewalk, miscellaneous drainage, and will flag properties that may need additional engineering/drainage. Mr. Morton will also evaluate to determine if there are any cost differences between installing a set-back sidewalk or a sidewalk connected to the curb. Mr. Morton will have preliminary estimates ready the week of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The committee discussed whether one, or both sides of the street would be assessed for the sidewalks. The assessment can be applied either way.

Mr. Henning asked if the sidewalk engineering work is part of the City's existing contract with Kleinger's or if it is an additional expense. Mr. Morton said the sidewalk engineering would be an additional charge to the City. Mr. Henning emphasized that the City is expending resources to evaluate the installation of the sidewalks.

Mr. Morton reported that the 2021 Street Program will be ready to go to bid in a few weeks.

The committee asked if curbs will be added to all of Osceola. Mr. Morton answered that it is currently not planned, but that they could be for consistency sake. He plans to discuss it further with the City Manager. Mr. Gehring added that he would like to continue the curb on the entire street if it doesn't cause (drainage) trouble.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

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Scott Gehring, Chair