



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: May 23, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: Conduct a public hearing to consider the vacation of platted street and alley right-of-way within Reynolds' Addition to Grand Rapids.

PREPARED BY: Eric Trast, Zoning Administrator

BACKGROUND:

Matt Grose, Superintendent of ISD #318, on behalf of the School District Board submitted a valid petition, on April 15, 2022 requesting the vacation of the following described public right-of-ways:

6th Avenue East Lying Between Lot 6, Block 1 and Lot 1, Block 2, Reynolds' Addition to Grand Rapids;

And;

N/S alley in Block 1 and the N/S alley in Block 2, Reynolds' Addition to Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota.

The three publically, unimproved segments of platted right-of-way (2-alley, and 1-street) petitioned for vacation, terminate at the northern edge of the plat of Reynolds' Addition to Grand Rapids (platted in 1948). The remaining northern 2/3's of the city block, is an unplatted 3.8 acre parcel of land, occupied by the majority of the (former) Edna I Murphy elementary school and play ground, constructed in approximately 1953.

The subject segments of right-of-way petitioned for vacation are currently used for/occupied by:

- Western most alley: 140 ft. of sidewalk.
- 6th Ave. E. R-O-W: entrance to east side of the former school for parking/deliveries, and 2,200 sq. ft. of building is located in the R-O-W.
- Eastern most alley: extends through/under the ice hockey rink and into ball field/playground area.

The School District is the owner of the of the former Murphy Elementary School property. The vacation request, if approved, would remove the unimproved right-of-ways from the property, providing a clean title to the site, for potential future sale.

As described in the attached email correspondence, the Engineering/Public Works Department have no objections to the petitioned vacation, however Matt Wegwerth, City Engineer/Public Works Director,

noted the ownership of the sidewalk along the east side of 5th Avenue appears to be fully on ISD 318 property, which would require the walk to be the responsibility of the District. With the vacation, this would eliminate all public ownership of this walk.

Historically, the sidewalk along the east side of 5th Avenue (between 9th Street NE and 8th Street NE) has been maintained by the school district. During the schools operational years, snow removal was taken care of by the districts grounds maintenance department, as the school busses unloaded and picked up on the west side of the school, for the majority of its time open. The northern 2/3's of the sidewalk, on this side of the school, remain on the School District's property.

On May 5, 2022, the Planning Commission formally reviewed the proposed street and alley right-of-way vacations, and recommended to the City Council approval of the vacations as petitioned, based on certain findings of fact, which are incorporated into the draft resolution.

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