



*Where Life is Sweet*

Mayor and Members of the City Council

**STAFF REPORT**

For the Meeting of November 25, 2024

**Title/Subject**

Umatilla County requests that the city take over jurisdiction of a portion of W Gettman Road between the Union Pacific Railroad and SW 11th Street.

**Summary and Background**

On August 26, 2024, the city and county entered into an intergovernmental agreement to transfer a portion of W Gettman Road from Umatilla County jurisdiction to City of Hermiston jurisdiction. The county held a public hearing on the transfer on November 6 and signed an order transferring jurisdiction from the county to the city and the order must be accepted by the city by resolution.

The portion of W Gettman Road proposed for transfer is located between SW 11<sup>th</sup> Street and the Union Pacific Railroad, a distance of roughly 2,250 feet. Generally, the city will not accept a county road within the UGB until the road is improved to city road standards (these standards include curb, gutter, sidewalk, paving, and drainage improvements). However, the agreement also contains a general provision where roads that do not meet city standards may be transferred if the area to be transferred is at least half a mile in length and 2/3 of the land is within the city. In this case, the land is less than half a mile in length (0.42 miles). However, there are mitigating circumstances which make a transfer more pressing. In this case, the Hermiston School District is subdividing land adjacent to W Gettman Road for the second phase of the Fieldstone Crossing student-built subdivision. The county's storm water management permit does not allow the county to operate and maintain urban drainage improvements such as drywells, which the city is requiring the school district to install.

The county will not allow installation of sidewalks on W Gettman Road and rebuilding of the existing curb and gutter, unless the city accepts jurisdiction of the road. The alternative which complies with the county's stormwater management practices would require the construction of drainage ditches and no sidewalk. The city feels that preservation of pedestrian safety for school access is of higher importance. The city council agreed that sidewalks are more important than strict adherence to the length requirements in the city/county joint management agreement and signed the intergovernmental agreement on August 26 and the county moved forward with the public hearing regarding the jurisdictional transfer.

A map of the portion of the road proposed for transfer is attached as well as an aerial photo. The county road order is attached for reference.

## **Tie-In to Council Goals**

N/A

## **Fiscal Information**

Adding 2,250 feet of road to city jurisdiction will marginally increase the overall maintenance requirements as well as transfer the road for plowing and sweeping. The total added costs associated with taking over the street are difficult to quantify in any given fiscal year but the maintenance and long-term impacts of adding new streets to pave will increase.

## **Alternatives and Recommendation**

### **Alternatives**

The city council may choose to adopt or reject Resolution 2346.

### **Recommended Action/Motion**

Staff recommends that the city council adopt Resolution 2346 and fulfill the terms of the IGA with Umatilla County.

### **Submitted By:**

Clint Spencer, Planning Director

Mark Morgan, Assistant City Manager