



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

4:00 PM August 3, 2022
City Hall 2nd Floor Large Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Mayor Scott Korthuis; Councilors Gary Bode and Ron De Valois

Members Absent: Jerry Kuiken

Staff Present: Public Works Director Steve Banham; Programs Manager Mark Sandal; and Office Manager Heather Sytsma

Public Present: Gary Vis, Teri Treat, Marty Gering

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Minutes from July 6, 2022

De Valois motioned to approve the minutes and Bode seconded the motion.

Action

The minutes from July 6, 2022, were approved.

2. Request for 15-Minute Parking Signs at Dutch Village Mall (655 Front Street)

Banham stated that staff has received requests from two businesses at the Dutch Village Mall for a 15-minute parking space near the entrance to the Mall. Banham noted that, per the Lynden Municipal Code 10.08.090 B, 15-minute parking restrictions are allowed. The Committee noted that there are several other spaces throughout downtown for in-and-out pick-up and drop off. De Valois asked how many parking spaces to consider. Bode and Banham both replied that one space should be adequate. Korthuis noted that all other short-term parking spaces are on the corner of a City block. After discussion, the Committee agreed that it makes sense to locate this one near the Mall entrance.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to recommend adding a 15-minute parking space in front of the Dutch Village mall.

3. Request Mayor Appointment to Airport Advisory Board for City Council Approval and Retroactive Airport Board Term Renewals for Bob Weeks and Bill Stoelt

Banham explained that Roger Humphreys is resigning, and the Airport Advisory Board has nominated Bryant Paulsen to serve on the Board for the remainder of Humphreys term, which expires December 2022.

Banham also noted that term renewals for Weeks and Stoelt were not brought to Council in December 2021. These will be presented to City Council later this month.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to support a) the appointment of Bryant Paulsen to the Airport Advisory Committee, and b) the renewal of Bill Stoelt and Bob Weeks' terms for three additional years, and recommended approval by City Council.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. Joint City Council, Parks District Board, and School Board Meeting in September

Banham noted that there will be a joint meeting between the City Council, the Parks District Board, and the Lynden School Board at the Lynden School District Administrative Office (516 Main Street) on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00 PM. This will be a regularly scheduled school board meeting; however, all three legislative bodies will need to be called to order to reflect the official nature of all groups in attendance. The agenda will include discussion regarding the Bradley Road roundabout project, among other things.

5. Development Standards Annual Update

Banham stated that the 2023 Development Standards revision schedule is included in the meeting packet. The updated Development Standards will be presented at the September Public Works Committee meeting for review. This is scheduled to be presented to the public and adopted January 1, 2023.

6. Downtown Parking – Downtown Business Association

Teri Treat, owner of the Inn at Lynden, a hotel that has 35 rooms and over 20 employees, would like to get involved in a more long-term solution to the downtown parking issue. She would also like to see more electric vehicle charging stations. She expressed concern about vehicle safety and about the extended-length trucks parking downtown.

Treat mentioned assisting with the purchase of property for parking, noting that the old Water Treatment Plant location would be an ideal space for employee parking due to its proximity to many downtown businesses. Sandal stated that staff has reviewed different plans and layouts for potential parking on this property.

Bode discussed business owners collaborating to purchase property, as this has been done in the past. Treat reminded the Committee that the hotel has an agreement with the City for guests to utilize City lots. She said that most of the hotel guests are arriving after 5 p.m. and leaving before 9 a.m., alleviating what could be additional parking issues downtown. Treat stated that Peoples Bank and church parking lots are nearby. If her employees had permission to use these, it could open over 25 spaces downtown. Her employees are supposed to park north of Grover Street or on 5th Street, but she knows that Avenue Bread employees are parking throughout downtown. As the building owner, she will continue to encourage them to park elsewhere and leave spaces for paying customers.

As an aside, Korthuis noted that the proposed hotel on Guide Meridian is required by new Washington State legislation to have electric vehicle spaces.

7. Prohibiting Electric Bike Use on Sidewalks

Banham explained that he has requested that the Public Safety Committee review the

section of code 12.24.110 addressing sidewalks, namely the use of bicycles, e-bikes, or other motorized transportation devices.

Regarding the use of these electric vehicles on trails, Bode suggested posting smaller-scale speed limit signs. He also recommended education for everyone regarding use of trails by pedestrians, bicycles, etc. Banham noted that trails are a Parks Department issue and a public safety issue, but sidewalks are under Public Works, so staff would want to make any modifications in conjunction with the Parks Department. Additionally, signage in the right-of-way would be Public Works' responsibility. Enforcement is a Public Safety responsibility.

8. WSDOT SR539 (Guide Meridian) Fish Passage Project Detour Route (Duffner Ditch Culvert Replacement)

Banham stated that replacement of the Duffner Ditch culvert is scheduled for Summer, 2023 (June through October). This culvert transports water from the large ditch on the east side of Guide Meridian south of Main Street to the west into Duffner Ditch. The proposed traffic control plan for installing the box culvert is to construct a single lane temporary southbound bypass along the west side of SR539 within project limits and to move northbound traffic onto the detour route to Birch Bay Lynden Road, Berthusen Road and Main Street. The road closure would be intermittent, as determined by the contractor's installation schedule for the culvert.

Bode asked if the City can contact the County expressing concern about the intersection of Berthusen Road and Birch Bay Lynden Road. Banham stated it is unlikely the County will do anything with this intersection.

Korthuis asked for an update on the Badger Road culvert replacement. Staff noted that culverts have been delivered and are scheduled to be installed and traffic reopened on Saturday. Sandal mentioned that there will be nighttime closures during the NWWA Fair, outside of Fair hours.

9. 2022 Grant Applications

Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF)

West Main Street and Roundabout at Berthusen

Pepin Upstream (Main Street to Westview Place) Pine Street Bridge and Channel

Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)

Main and 1st and Main and 3rd Street Intersections

Hannegan Road and 1st Street (City Limits to Grover Street Intersection) *[Note: Due to funding limits, this application will be postponed to the 2023 application cycle.]*

Department of Ecology (DOE)

10th Street and Judson Street Stormwater Low Impact Development

Pepin Downstream Stabilization (South of Main Street)

Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion, Phase 1

Legislative (Federal/State Funding)

Bradley Road Complete Streets Improvement

Pepin Upstream (Main Street to Westview Place) Pine Street Bridge and Channel

10. Projects Update

Pepin Creek Main Street Bridge

Girders are scheduled to be delivered September 7th. Footings will start August 15th and the walls will start August 26th.

Grover Overlay

Paving is scheduled for August 8th and 9th with full road closures on those days.

West Front Street Improvements

Pole relocation is scheduled for mid-August and will be performed by Puget Sound Energy after they obtain easements.

West Front Street Culvert Replacement

Staff is working with Federal Highways to meet all their requirements and the implications for the timing of this construction.

Industrial Condensate Outfall

Sheet piling is in, and the contractor has started in-water work. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled.

South Park Waterline and Overlay

Advertising for bids on August 10th and 17th, with a bid opening on August 25th.

Benson Road Improvements

Whatcom Council of Governments Board approved the transfer of \$1,057,000 to the Benson Road Improvements project, for a total federal funding of \$1,857,000. The City returned \$160,000 to Federal Highways Agency for the West Main Street design work.

Forge Fitness Exterior Siding and Landscaping

The pool is being drained for annual work and for pool deck resurfacing.

11. Replacement of Community Center Emergency Generator

The existing generator is being replaced with a larger unit. Electrical work is being done by VECA since the City's electrician position is vacant.

NEW BUSINESS:

12. Residents' Request for Cedar Drive Project Update

Marty Gering, a resident of 215 Cedar Drive, introduced himself and stated he is attending the meeting to collect any project progress information to relay it to his neighbors. Banham stated he had conversation with Reichhardt and Ebe (R&E) about locating and getting good condition assessments on the two storm sewer pipes that cross Cedar Drive and go south.

Banham explained that the initial focus of 2022 was to the project was to evaluate the condition of the utilities under the road and to develop a full cost estimate for upgrading the street and utilities. Staff is considering a compact sewer pump station at the west end of Cedar Drive to improve separation between sewer and stormwater. The stormwater pipes need to be repaired and relocated.

Gering expressed concern about the condition of the drainage channel behind his house. Staff noted that this is not a City facility, per se, but is on private property, so staff will also need to discuss with the property owners the future role of the City. Banham assured Gering this is an active project and added that staff's intent is to obtain an accurate project estimate for the 2023 budget. The project is on the City's Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan; however, the cost has increased due to better definition of the storm and sewer work needed.

Gering mentioned that he has some maps of old pipes in the area that might be of help. Banham asked him to provide these to staff.

13. Request to bring Bender Road Watermain Bids Directly to August 15 City Council Meeting

Banham stated that the bid opening for this project is tomorrow (August 4th) and requested approval to take bids to City Council on August 15th for award upon Committee review of the bid tabulation.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred that award for bid for the Bender Road Waterline project be presented directly to City Council upon Committee review of the bid tabulation.

14. Follow Up on Tanko Street Light Conversion Discussion

As requested by the Public Works Committee at their meeting on July 6th, Banham did further research on Puget Sound Energy (PSE)-owned streetlight ownership transfer performed by Tanko Streetlighting, Inc. He explained that several other cities are proceeding with a feasibility study, performed by Tanko. If Lynden chose to do this, it would cost approximately \$6,000. Banham stated that there are several details that caused him to hesitate on moving forward with this transfer at this time.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred and recommended not proceeding with the Tanko Streetlighting conversion until further information is available from cities once they have gone through the entire process.

15. 112 B.C. Avenue Residence – Concern About Future Accidents

Bode asked if the City will be adding barriers at the intersection of Grover Street and B.C. Avenue where a driver operating under the influence failed to negotiate the corner and crashed into the living room of the house at 112 B.C. Avenue. Banham stated that the residents can plant trees on their property if they want. There are already planters at that corner, however, the car didn't hit those.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 7, 2022