



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

4:00 PM June 8, 2022

City Hall 2nd Floor Large Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Councilors Gary Bode, Ron De Valois, Jerry Kuiken

Members Absent: Mayor Scott Korthuis, with notice

Staff Present: City Administrator John Williams; Public Works Director Steve Banham; Planning & Community Development Director Heidi Gudde; Programs Manager Mark Sandal; and Sr. Admin. Assistant Jessica King

Public Present: Roxanne Arnold and Earl Westoff (Darigold Guests) and Gary Vis

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Minutes from May 17, 2022

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

Action

The minutes from May 17, 2022, were approved.

2. Planter Strips

The issue of what is allowed in planter strips was previously discussed by Committee in July 2016. The decision at that time was to "...discontinue discussion of residential planter strips at this time, other than when the plantings encroach on the sidewalk, obstruct vision of motorists or otherwise pose some safety hazard."

Banham explained that the only City code that currently exists for the vegetation in the planter strips, as referenced in Lynden Municipal Code 8.16.050 (established in 1961), is not specific as to whether other landscape options are allowed as alternatives to grass.

Gudde discussed the current City code and stated that the City has received requests to use gravel instead of grass. She asked the Committee to consider looking at the standards to allow ground covers that are more water efficient than grass (xeriscape), but also expressed concern that the grass and plants may turn brown during the summer due to reduced watering. Currently the Planning Department is not issuing final occupancy for properties with anything other than grass. She asked if the Committee wants to maintain the standard of grass for the planting strips or modify this.

Banham explained that the two acceptable options currently being considered for planter strips are xeriscape and grass and stated that the Committee's preference in the past

has been for grass. Because the code is not clearly worded, an update is needed to reflect this preference.

Bode expressed concern about groundcover plants encroaching over the sidewalk and whether residents would maintain them to keep the sidewalks clear.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to support a revision to the Lynden Municipal Code clarifying what materials are allowed to be installed in planter strips and requested that staff provide the revision at a future Public Works Committee meeting.

3. Darigold Crosswalks

Banham introduced Roxanne Arnold and Earl Westoff, of Darigold, who contacted the City regarding the development of a better pedestrian safety plan for back-and-forth travel across Depot Road between plant facilities. The buildings need safer crosswalks to accommodate 24 hours per day, and 7 days per week pedestrian crossing by Darigold employees. Darigold would make the improvements by replacing the single existing crosswalk with crosswalks at the northern and southern sides of the Darigold facility. The crosswalks will have flashing lights, similar to the Kaemingk Trail crosswalk on Bender Road. The City would have to review and improve the crosswalk equipment before purchase by Darigold. Banham cautioned the Committee that an additional crosswalk will be installed north of the Darigold facility once the trail extension is in place.

The Committee and Arnold discussed the pros and cons of adding additional crosswalks and increasing awareness for both pedestrians and drivers in the area. Arnold offered other ideas such as adding diagonal, yellow-striped lines, raised pavement markers, rumble strips, or a raised crosswalk/speed hump.

Sandal mentioned that signals can interfere with each other if the radio frequencies are not spaced or set correctly.

Bode suggested placing traffic counters. Banham suggested also placing the Police Department mobile speed trailers in the Darigold area.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to recommend approving the replacement of the single crosswalk with two crosswalks and flashing lights on Depot Road at the Darigold facility. The Committee also concurred to recommend that staff obtain an updated traffic count along with placing the Police Department mobile speed trailers in this area.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. Transportation Benefit District Extension of Vote to the Public – Next Steps

Banham stated that a Public Hearing was scheduled at Monday's Council meeting for June 20th. Banham noted that Ferndale had 60% approval for their recent TBD extension.

Williams discussed what could be written in the voter's pamphlet. He said that the City will need to advertise for a "pro" and "con" in the legal section of the Lynden Tribune.

5. Complete Streets – Annual Review

Banham said the plan is to bring forward the review at the next meeting. Staff is currently working on the report.

6. Personnel Recruitments

Banham discussed the upcoming new hire openings and the recruitments that are currently open:

Electrician

Street Maintenance Journey (2)

Utilities Technician

Operator (late 2022)

7. Whatcom Conservation District

Banham discussed the materials in the packet for the press release for the Wildlife Bioblitz and Whatcom County's most recent water quality reports. Vis asked if the sources of the fecal coliform has been discovered. Bode suggested that DNA testing could be done to determine the source of the fecal coliform so the source can be addressed/fixed. The Committee also questioned the sources and agreed that they would like to request DNA tests for the source.

8. Projects Update

Pepin Creek Relocation

Banham said downstream residents have appealed the SEPA because they are concerned about shoreline erosion. The SEPA appeal will be presented to the City's Hearing Examiner for a ruling on the appeal.

Pepin Creek Main Street Bridge

Banham said that the Main Street road closure is scheduled for July 11 through mid-November. The bridge girders are expected to be delivered September 7, sooner than expected, so the construction schedule has been updated to reflect this.

Vis is working on Fair bus route changes since Main Street will be closed during the Fair.

Grover Overlay (CC 6/20/2022)

Banham stated that the bids are scheduled to be opened June 9th and bid results will be forwarded to Committee for review. The bid award is scheduled to be presented at the June 20 City Council meeting. Sandal said he expected the project to be done before the Fair starts.

West Front Street Culvert Replacement

Banham said that the Federal Highway Administration has approved emergency funding for this project and staff is hoping to complete the project before the end of the year.

On a related note, Sandal met with Stremmler to review the West Front Street Improvement project and Puget Sound Energy will be planning to complete some work during the project also.

Industrial Condensate Outfall

Banham said the project is progressing, but the crew ran into some wood piles during the boring, which has slowed the project.

South Park Waterline and Overlay

Sandal said the schedule is for Reichhardt and Ebe to finalize plans by June 15th. Right-of-way may be required for Beernink Lane.

Williams said the City was awarded Whatcom County EDI funds for this project.

Judson Street Alley

Bode said that Puget Sound Energy (PSE) was amenable to relocating poles. Sandal said PSE needs a better idea of what the final street layout will be from 3rd to 7th Streets.

Bode expressed concern about an existing wall behind the Lynden Pioneer Museum that restricts turning movements for delivery trucks coming down 3rd Street. Banham will have staff look at the potential for removing the wall.

EDI-Funded Projects Approved by Whatcom County Council:

- Community Center (\$300,000)
- Recreation Center Siding (\$250,000)
- Depot to 8th Street Trail (\$500,000)
- South Park Waterline and Overlay (\$700,000)
- Grover Overlay (\$500,000)

Williams discussed approval for the EDI-funded projects and that the funds would be $\frac{3}{4}$ grant and $\frac{1}{4}$ loan. He said that staff has requested to consolidate the loan amount to the South Park Waterline and Overlay project and making the other projects grant-only to make tracking these funds easier for staff.

Depot to 8th Street Trail

Banham stated this project has been postponed until 2023 because of delays in review of the JARPA permit by Federal agencies.

Bradley Road

Williams discussed the delay in getting the \$3 million for this project approved by the Legislature this past year as part of a much larger transportation funding package. WSDOT has asked the Legislature to provide them guidance regarding the order by which all the projects in that package are funded. The earliest funds for the City's project would be available is 2024.

Banham said there have been good discussions between the City and the school district regarding this project, specifically regarding the right-of-way needed and the proposed parking lot reconfiguration.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. PeaceHealth Construction Schedule

Bode asked for an update on the PeaceHealth construction project. Sandal discussed the easements still needing approval before a groundbreaking date is scheduled.

10. Interlocal with Watershed Improvement Districts – City of Lynden Agricultural Stormwater Solutions (CLASS) 2-Page White Paper

Banham discussed trying to reduce the challenges of development in the industrial-zoned property in the west Lynden area. The Committee discussed stormwater, downstream Bertrand Creek conveyance improvements, retention pond options, and the funding for these projects.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 6, 2022

DRAFT