



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

4:15 PM December 4, 2019

City Hall 2nd Floor Large Conference Room

1. ROLL CALL

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

Staff Present: Public Works Director Steve Banham; Programs Manager Mark Sandal; Sr. Admin. Assistant Heather Sytsma; and Sr. Admin. Assistant Miriam Kentner

Public Present: Gary Vis

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. **Approve Minutes from November 13, 2019**

De Valois noted that a change is needed in item 4-A. It currently reads "The Committee also recommended staff research relocating the speed radar signs currently located near Fisher Elementary School to Benson Road near Fisher Elementary," but should read "...located near Fisher Elementary School to Benson Road near Isom Elementary School."

De Valois motioned to approve the minutes with the above-noted change and Bode seconded the motion.

Action

The minutes from November 13, 2019 were approved as amended.

B. **Whatcom Conservation District Interlocal Agreement Renewal**

The Committee discussed the renewal of the Whatcom Conservation District interlocal agreement. Kuiken motioned to approve the agreement and Bode seconded the motion.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to forward the Whatcom Conservation District Interlocal Agreement to City Council for approval.

C. **Recommendation to Set Public Hearing Date of January 6 for Stormwater Comp Plan**

Bode introduced the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan, and the Committee discussed the need for the plan to be updated. Sandal stated the plan has not been updated since 1994.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to recommend to City Council to set a public hearing date of January 6, 2020 for the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Bids for Asphalt / Aggregate for Streets and Chemicals for Plants

Sytsma distributed current bids opened December 4, 2019. She noted that Miles Sand and Gravel included a per-load fuel surcharge when the bid specifically requests that any fuel surcharges be included in the bid price.

B. Lynden School District School Signs

Staff met with Lynden School District Superintendent Jim Frey and discussed the current plans to install flashing school zone signs on Line Road this week. Sandal stated that these signs are solar-powered and have LED lights. He noted that the price is about \$8,000 each. The Committee discussed potential locations for future signs.

Banham noted that staff had recommended to Jim Frey that the District develop a walking route plan for the Lynden schools. He also reminded the Committee that they discussed moving the 25-mph speed zone sign north on Benson Road, and this has been forwarded to the Public Safety Committee for concurrence.

Banham stated that staff has been asked to install a crosswalk at Lynden Academy (near Meadow Lane and 19th Street). Banham expressed that he is hesitant to do this as there are multiple vehicle access points nearby, increasing the chance of a pedestrian being injured by a vehicle. The Committee also stated they do not want a crosswalk in this area.

C. Request for Crosswalk at Line Road and Aaron Drive – Emily Harrison

Bode discussed the letter from Emily Harrison requesting a crosswalk across Line Road on Aaron Drive. The Committee discussed the location, including mentioning it is in a growing residential area where many people walk for recreation. Korthuis stated there is an existing crosswalk at Aaron and Vinup which is a similar situation. Banham stated it makes sense to put a crosswalk here due to the high volume of pedestrians and because the similar crossing at Vinup Rd has a crosswalk.

D. Increase in Janitorial Contract due to Prevailing Wage Requirements

Banham stated that the increase is due to the state prevailing wage for janitorial services increasing from \$12.00 per hour to \$13.50 per hour and their contract provided for this adjustment. The Committee asked staff about the performance of the contractor and the service has been satisfactory

E. Projects:

1. Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall – Photos

After reviewing the photos of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall, the Committee discussed the project and potential issues in this area with high water. Banham stated that after the last flooding event the area will be modified slightly to better drain the area without damaging the new plantings.

2. Industrial Condensate – Riverview to Outfall-Testing for Army Corps of Engineers

Banham stated that testing was performed at the request of the Lummi Nation to the Army Corp as a part of their permitting.

Bode asked if test results were good, and Banham responded yes.

3. Industrial Condensate – Darigold Stormwater to Fishtrap Creek – Notice to Proceed Issued

Banham stated that the Notice to Proceed was issued to Faber Construction on November 8th.

4. 7th Street Revitalization Project – 7th Street Closed During the Lighted Christmas Parade

Banham stated that the road will re-open after the weekend and the construction to the south of Front Street will continue unless the weather is unfavorable for construction to continue. Sandal stated that a portion of the parking lot will be inaccessible.

5. 17th Street Design

Banham stated that this project is scheduled to go out for bid in January for construction with anticipation to award at City Council in February. De Valois asked if the cul de sac will remain. Bode stated it is only a partial bulb. Banham stated there will be a wide spot in the road with appropriate lane markings to guide motorists, not unlike a few other residential streets in the community.

6. West Front Street Whatcom County Economic Development Investment Program (EDI) to County Council for Approval 2nd Meeting January 2020

Banham stated that the West Front Street project is scheduled to be presented to the Whatcom County Council early next year (January or February). It was approved by the EDI Board with a vote of 8-2.

7. Judson Street Low Impact Development

Banham stated that proposals were received from four firms, and staff will likely interview two after reviewing and rating their proposals. This work is funded wholly by a DOE Stormwater Design and grant and Staff's intent is to apply for a construction grant from the Department of Ecology in fall 2020.

Banham noted that this project includes 8th, 9th and 10th Streets.

8. TIB Grant for East Grover (Railroad Tracks to Vinup) & Vinup to Lynden High School

Sandal stated that the Transportation Improvement Board recently awarded the City \$502,000 for pavement preservation. He stated that this project will include grinding and repaving East Grover Street from the railroad tracks to Vinup Road, Bradley next to the Lynden High School and upgrading the pedestrian ramps to the latest ADA standards along the route.

9. Decant Facility – Department of Ecology Funding

Banham stated that staff is in the process of reviewing the preliminary design report prepared by Pace Engineering. After City comments are incorporated this will be

submitted to the Department of Ecology for review and approval. Banham stated that this budgeted 2020 project will improve water quality and is estimated to cost \$880,000 and will be 75% funded by a Department of Ecology grant. Sandal added that it will be similar in size to the existing equipment storage building and located further to the south.

10. Trail – 17th Street to Dickinson Park – Reichhardt & Ebe Preparing Scope and Budget

Banham stated that Reichhardt & Ebe is preparing a scope and budget plan which will include a basic survey of the property. Banham stated that he, Korthuis and Meenderinck walked the site earlier in the day to review site characteristics.

11. Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) – Visiting Site Prior to Next Funding Cycle; Application Due 2020; Contract Execution 2021

Korthuis stated he has previously presented to the RCO and will be seeking advice during this visit by RCO staff on how to prepare an application to obtain higher ranking. The City is also pursuing a direct appropriation from the 2020 Legislature for the Depot to 8th segment.

4. ITEMS ADDED:

A. Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, Between Whatcom County and the Cities of Whatcom County (Wayfinding Signs)

Korthuis presented a contract between Whatcom County and the cities of Whatcom County for wayfinding within the County.

The Committee discussed the benefits of having WSDOT approval on signs on their routes and receiving County matching funds. The committee also discussed locations to place wayfinding signs that will direct visitors to the downtown.

Vis and the Mayor explained that the City had been able to get much more flexibility on construction. The contract would be for a five-year term with a County match for vehicular signs. Design work and any future management costs would be paid for by the County.

B. Traffic Counts on 17th

Sandal distributed traffic findings at Fishtrap Creek, noting that a couple of the reads for Village Drive did not record successfully.

C. Line Road Pedestrian Improvements Schedule

Sandal presented the proposed construction schedule for the planned December work on the Line Road Pedestrian Safety Improvements project. De Valois asked about the highlighted items and Sandal explained that the contractor will need an archaeologist on site for that work (excavation).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.