



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

4:00 PM January 12, 2022
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
City Hall 2nd Floor Large Conference Room

1. ROLL CALL

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

Staff Present: City Administrator John Williams; Public Works Director Steve Banham; Programs Manager Mark Sandal; Office Manager Heather Sytsma; Sr. Admin. Assistant Jessica King

Public Present: Gary Vis

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. **Approve Minutes from December 8, 2021**

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

Action

The minutes from December 8, 2021, were approved.

B. **Complete Streets Ordinance**

Banham explained that this ordinance is being implemented for future street construction and encourages the “enhancement of the non-motorized network” of transportation, namely that streets include sidewalks and bike lanes for non-motorized mobility whenever feasible. De Valois asked how the Complete Streets Ordinance applies to existing streets. Banham replied that if a street were to be reconstructed, this ordinance would apply.

Banham noted that ADA Transition Plans address adding and improving existing sidewalks where needed and as a result of public comment. The Complete Streets Ordinance applies to new construction.

Bode asked whether the implementation of this Ordinance means that residents can request upgrades to City streets. Banham stated that even without this Ordinance, residents can request upgrades to City streets. This Ordinance would only address how those City streets are built.

Sandal stated that staff will review the City’s Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan, looking at mobility access. This Ordinance helps improve the eligibility of the City for State and Federal bike and pedestrian funding.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to support the adoption of Complete Streets Ordinance and recommended that staff present this to City Council in February for approval.

C. Main Street Bridge Girder Pre-Procurement

Banham stated that pre-procurement of the bridge girders will not provide substantial advantage to the construction schedule since delivery, either way, is not until December or January, which is the wrong time of year for this construction. Therefore, staff is requesting to reverse the decision from the December 8, 2021, Public Works Committee meeting, and to have girders ordered by the contractor.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to support staff's decision to not pre-procure the girders, and to leave procurement responsibility to the contractor.

D. West Front Street Reconstruction

Bid advertisement for the West Front Street project will occur in late January with bids due in February. Staff is working to resolve utilities to serve the adjoining lots and easements for stormwater.

Banham requested support to bring bids directly to City Council should bid results come in after the March Public Works Committee meeting.

The Committee also discussed damage to the West Front Street culvert. Repairs would not be associated with the West Front Street Reconstruction project, as the resources would come from a different funding source and require different permitting.

EDI funding to pay for this project. Staff is requesting Committee support to bring bids directly to City Council if bidding due date occurs prior to March Committee meeting.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to recommend that award for bid be presented to City Council upon Committee review of the bid tabulation.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. KOA Stormwater Pond Drainage

The Committee discussed the estimate received from Eddie Martin to repair the KOA stormwater ponds. There was discussion regarding whether this will qualify for emergency FEMA Funding. Staff will research whether this can be added to the City's damage assessment.

B. Pepin Channel and Pine Street Culvert

As Development progresses in the Pepin Subarea the already developed area north of Main Street including a culvert at Pine Street is going to be an important section of creek realignment. Developers are already discussing plans to complete Pepin infrastructure adjacent to their properties. In the interest of finding state and federal funding for this important link, staff is recommending a budget amendment for design and permitting. This could potentially receive potential mitigation funding resulting from the recent flooding and we would like to have this work more "shovel-ready".

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to recommend that staff develop the budget request for approval by City Administration and the Mayor.

C. Revised Pepin Parkway Alignment

The City is acquiring the property to extend Sunrise Drive on the west side of Benson Road. Banham has met with the Parks Board and received support for the revision that includes putting the road through the park, rather than the edge of the park.

Bode asked if there has been further discussion with the affected property owners. Banham stated he is meeting with them tomorrow.

Vis expressed concern about the proposed location of the roadway on the park property, noting that a road through the center of the event space will cause issues for pedestrians and traffic flow. He suggested moving the road to the north of property and across the street from Homestead Boulevard. Banham stated that the Parks master planning process is developing a plan of this area.

D. Revised Signal at 19th and Front Street

Banham stated that a left-hand turn signal is being installed at 19th and Front Street. The Committee was in support of this signal modification.

Korthuis noted that the left turn signal on First Street at Grover Street doesn't allow enough cars through during the hour after school. Banham stated that staff will ask City of Bellingham to look into this.

E. Vinup-Bradley Roundabout Preliminary Concept

Banham distributed diagrams for the proposed Vinup-Bradley Roundabout. The Committee discussed the design, noting that there will be property left over on the west side of Vinup Road. The Committee also discussed roundabouts and traffic flow. The Mayor and the City Administrator will be meeting with the school district superintendent to discuss this concept later this month.

F. East Front Street Settlement Concerns

Banham noted that a budget amendment may be needed in order to prioritize work on the East Front Street settlement issues. GeoEngineers recommended a Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) wall and/or Spiral Nails. Bode asked about sheet piling as it could be a less expensive option. Banham stated he will inquire about this.

[Note: Banham provided information from GeoEngineers after the meeting.]

G. Update on Sewer CIPP – 6th Street

Banham stated that work is ongoing and much of the pipe has been cleaned. There are some minor leaks in the existing pipe which means that the Cured In Place Pipe (CIPP) installation will have to be completed when the groundwater is lower.

H. Demolition of 1625 Main Street (Erdmann)

Banham stated that staff solicited bids for demolition this week. The demolition will include the house and all outbuildings on the site, including foundations.

I. WWTP Maintenance Building Location Alternatives

Banham presented two site options for the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Building, one at the old Water Plant site and the other near the Six Million Gallon Water Tank. He stated that the estimate for construction is \$3.5 million.

The Committee discussed each location and expressed concern about the cost of the facility. Banham stated that the architect provided his scoping estimate based on the current inflated construction market. The Committee expressed preference for the location by the water tank with the thought of preserving the land on the alley for future parking.

NEW BUSINESS

1) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

Williams shared that Lynden is likely to receive Whatcom County ARPA funds for the following projects:

- Northwest Washington Fairgrounds \$150,000
- Grover Street Pavement Preservation \$500,000
- South Park Street Water, Street and Sidewalk Improvements \$700,000

He added that other projects for which the City requested funding are being considered for other County funding programs:

- Community Center Facility Structural & Mechanical Repairs \$300,000
- Lynden Recreation Center Exterior Siding Replacement \$250,000
- Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Connector: Depot to 8th Street \$500,000

2) Adopting an Updated Whatcom County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Williams stated that a Resolution will be presented to City Council to adopt the updated Whatcom County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. This plan must be updated every five years and reviewed by FEMA to remain eligible for federal funding for hazard mitigation projects.

3) Potential January Flooding

Korthuis stated that Emerson Road in Everson was sandbagged today as a preventative measure to alleviate flooding in Everson. This will keep more in the Nooksack River as it flows along the southern border of Lynden.

4) NWWA Fairgrounds – Disaster Relief

Vis stated that he would like the City to support disaster relief funding for the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds for the aid they provided to displaced residents during the November 2021 flooding. Additionally, as the fairgrounds buildings are usually winterized and not in use off-season, and while housing displaced residents, the fairgrounds restrooms sustained damage due to pipes freezing from the winter storm weather.

5) Snow Removal

De Valois said he would like to relay that he received favorable comments from the community regarding snow removal on City streets.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.