

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Minutes – July 11, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Public Works Committee for the City of Monona was called to order at 6:30pm by Alderman Speight.

Present: Alderman Speight, Mr. Stolper, Ms. Busse, Mr. Besch, Mr. Turino, Mr. Podell, Mr. Franklin

Excused: Alderman Holmquist, Mr. McConnell

Also Present: Monona residents Vanyce Walker, Doug DeRosa, Paul & Leslie Johnson, Kate & Charles Reich, Jeanne Edmunds, Heather Gates, Kristie Schilling, and DPW Director Dan Stephany

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Busse, and seconded by Mr. Turino to approve the Public Works Committee minutes of June 1, 2016, was carried.

APPEARANCES –

Douglas DeRosa of 4504 Gordon Avenue registered against the proposed parking changes, and appeared in front of the committee. Mr. DeRosa opposes the relocation of student parking back to Gordon because families and retirees in the neighborhood will have to deal with the problem. He strongly urges the city to move forward and not backward, and encourage the high school students to car pool, ride the bus, walk or bike to school. He is for bringing relief to residents of Wallace and Parkway, but not at the expense of Gordon residents.

Jeanne Edmunds of 4509 Gordon Avenue registered against the proposed parking changes, and appeared in front of the committee. Ms. Edmunds asked if the City had other property that could be converted to parking areas for the high school rather than City streets. She is tired of picking up trash left behind by students on Gordon, students are parking longer than the two hour time frame posted on the signs, and has witnessed drug deals occurring by the cars.

Vanyce Walker of 4511 Gordon Avenue registered against the proposed parking changes, and appeared in front of the committee. Ms. Walker agreed with Mr. DeRosa, that there is a lot of litter left behind.

Chuck Reich of 4411 Wallace Avenue registered in favor of the proposed parking changes, and appeared in front of the committee. Mr. Reich is in favor of the proposed changes. Student parking creates a problem for him because they park in front of his sidewalk leading to his house. Mr. Reich feels there is no safe access to his property if students are parking in front of his sidewalk. He would like to see a four foot buffer on each side of his sidewalk so he can get to his house, and he is asking for special consideration for his lot. For twenty four years they have lived on the lot and they are the only home that has one access to their house, which is the sidewalk. Students trespass across their lot on their way to school.

Heather Gates of 207 West Dean Avenue appeared in front of the committee. Ms. Gates stated that fifteen years ago students did not park in front of her house, and now there are more cars and students park all the way to Dean. People cannot see at the intersections because the students park all the way to intersections. The sight lines are blocked.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

5A: Discussion consideration of proposed parking restrictions for portions of Wallace Avenue, Gordon Avenue, Parkway Drive, Cold Spring Avenue, and Lofty Avenue: Director Stephany provided a quick summary of packet information. Letters were sent to residents on June 13th notifying them of the proposed parking changes, and the upcoming meetings for discussion. Comments from residents were also included in the packet.

Ms. Busse asked if staff has contacted the high school, asking if they could open the parking and if they needed to continue to charge students for parking, and to verify if the lot is always full. Director Stephany responded that after talking to parents, permits are handed out to seniors first, and that students do have to pay for the permit. The majority of school days the lot is full,

and that students are allowed to leave the school during the day, making it seem like the lot is not being fully used. Ms. Busse did state that there are more drivers now, and students may be driving more from Cottage Grove.

Mr. Besch mentioned the idea of carpooling and busing may not work because there are different times when students need to leave school due to activities and sports. The City needs to do everything they can to keep the school in Monona rather than the school being moved to Cottage Grove. Mr. Besch added that one of the main reasons the plan is being proposed is to help the City better provide services for snow plowing, leaf collection and brush collection. The plan being proposed will help solve that problem.

Alderman Speight asked Director Stephany how garbage collection will be affected with the new plan. Director Stephany stated that the current contract ends at the end of 2016. Language will be written in the RFP that will require the contractor to accommodate the proposed parking plan, if it is passed by committee and council. Director Stephany stated the problem with garbage collection is not the biggest problem. Completing leaf collection, brush collection and snow plowing are the biggest problems.

Mr. Turino stated that he is still against the proposed parking plan because it moves the problem from Wallace to Gordon. Mr. Turino suggests that parking be spread out evenly throughout the area by marking individual parking spaces on the street.

Mr. Podell commented that more enforcement is needed because the two hour parking restriction on Gordon is not working, and spreading the area for parking will make the parking less restrictive, opening up more area for parking. Mr. Podell does support trying the proposed plan.

A motion was made by Ms. Busse, and seconded by Mr. Stolper to recommend approval of the proposed plan to Council was carried. Mr. Turino opposed.

5B: Local road reconstruction design update and discussion: Director Stephany explained the draft drawings that were included in the packet. At the direction of the committee at the last meeting, a meandering sidewalk plan was created to reduce the amount of trees that would need to be cut down. A draft plan that did not include sidewalks was also provided.

Mr. Turino asked if a tree analysis was completed to determine the health of the trees. A few of the trees look pretty rough, and some may not survive if sidewalks are constructed. Director Stephany stated that a review will be completed by the August meeting. Mr. Turino also asked that the sidewalk ramps, crosswalks, and alignment be reviewed because the draft plan does not seem complete.

Mr. Podell asked why the sidewalk meandered so much on the plan, being so far away from the right of way line. The committee responded that the meandering is due to the desire to save the trees. For the August meeting a color overlay of the trees will be provided once again to show trees that would be saved and trees that would be eliminated.

Mr. Stolper stated that he is not a fan of sidewalks, and is unaware of any incident in the area with accidents with children. Mr. Stolper is also not interested in cutting down trees to accommodate sidewalks, and with a meandering sidewalk, the City runs the risk of killing the trees. Sidewalks add more impervious surface, which the City is trying to reduce. Alderman Speight added that if sidewalks do not go in he would advocate for driveway aprons to have sidewalk panels installed for potential future installation. Mr. Podell mentioned that if the panels were added to the aprons they would need to account for an alignment that wouldn't impact trees.

For the public information meeting and the August 3rd meeting, the plan is to show the north arrow, the scale, street names, and the trees being eliminated should show the type of tree and be in color. The plan, in its current form is very hard to read.

NEW BUSINESS

6A: Discussion of south Winnequah Road parking complaint: Director Stephany explained the information that was included in the packet. The Monona police chief and Alderman Holmquist have received many emails from Mr. Schachter regarding the parking on south Winnequah Road. Mr. Schachter provided photos of vehicles parking in the bike lane, which can impact bicyclists and pedestrians in this area. He is asking for parking to be eliminated for the south bound lane on Winnequah Road. Director Stephany added that even if the road is signed No Parking that contractors completing work in this area will still park on the road. The question raised is how will police enforce No Parking if the area is signed for No Parking.

Mr. Stolper stated that he rides in the area often and that bicyclists have as much right to be in the area as motorists do. Contractors have a right to park in the road when they complete their service. The road is what it is, and is not likely to get changed any time soon. Mr. Stolper says that he is not interested in restricting parking in this area, and perhaps more bicycle signs and markings be added.

Mr. Podell mentioned that he has seen more truck traffic in the area this summer as many homes are remodeling. He sees the problem going away by the end of summer. Mr. Podell feels that enforcement of the speed limit is needed for this area.

Mr. Stolper and the committee feels that no further action is needed on this topic.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday, August 3, 2016, Monona City Hall, at 6:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Busse and seconded by Mr. Besch to adjourn was carried (8:15 pm).

Daniel Stephany
Director of Public Works