

CITY OF LYNDEN

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Main Number: (360) 354-3446



Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
City Hall - 300 4th Street
4:00 PM May 05, 2021

Call to Order

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Public Works Director Steve Banham, Programs Manager Mark Sandal, Sr. Admin. Assistant Miriam Kentner

Public Present: Gary Vis, Ron Hanson, Eddy Martin, Vicki Lockhart, Jesse Nelson

Action Items

1. Approve Minutes from April 7, 2021

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

Action:

The minutes from April 7, 2021 were approved.

2. Access from Mural Building into 7th Street Parking Lot

Banham presented the draft amendment to the existing 'Airspace Encroachment Easement Agreement' between the City and Porch Swing Properties, owners of the Mural Building at 606 Front Street. This amendment, prepared by the City Attorney per the direction of the Committee at the April 2021 meeting, provides for a second emergency access to the City's parking lot per building code. The first two parking spaces will be changed to "compact" to allow for the owner to construct a five-foot-wide concrete walkway to Front Street for safe emergency egress. As consideration for this larger easement the owner is installing and operating an electric vehicle charging station available to the public.

Hanson explained to the Committee that decreasing the parking stall space by 31 inches will meet compact car standards and allow the five-foot walkway to meet minimum ADA standards.

Action:

The Public Works Committee recommended forwarding the easement to City Council for approval once Hanson has submitted a legal surveyed property description and exhibit suitable for recording which would be recorded with the agreement if approved by Council.

3. Foxtail Street Extension Latecomers Agreement Draft Assessment

Banham presented the Foxtail Street Extension Latecomers Agreement Draft Assessment based on actual construction costs.

A ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for May 24th.

Action:

The Public Works Committee concurred to recommend that staff meet with the affected property owners prior to sending the official letters notifying them of the proposed Foxtail Street Latecomer assessment amounts and allowing them to call for a public hearing with City Council if they so desire.

4. Overflow Taps Outdoor Seating Proposal

Jesse Nelson, owner of Overflow Taps, presented area photos and a request to expand outdoor seating along the sidewalk on 5th Street. This extension would also require the relocation of two bike racks just outside the tap house. The Committee discussed the possible impact of the request and the current Sidewalk Obstructions Code 12.28.010 (Ord. 812, A(Part), 1989) presented by Banham. Nelson originally asked for allowance of 36 inches (or 3 feet) from the curb, but the Committee stated that, per code, the City must allow a minimum 60 inches (or 5 feet) from the curb. Nelson agreed that this was acceptable. Vis noted that there were other provisions of this code that needed to be amended which were outdated. Nelson indicated that he is working with the DBA President, Ken Stapp, to find a suitable location to relocate the bike racks.

Action:

The Public Works Committee concurred to allow the expansion of the Overflow Taps seating area, maintaining a five-foot sidewalk opening. Additionally, they requested that staff modify the Sidewalk Obstructions code to clarify the required specifications related to outdoor seating. The Committee reminded Nelson that City insurance requirements must be met and the tree located on the sidewalk should not be disturbed.

Information Items

5. Puget Sound Energy Road Closure on West Main Street

Sandal presented the information sent out to customers from Puget Sound Energy about necessary system upgrades due to berry processing facilities. This work will result in a road closure on West Main Street from May 10 to 13.

6. Airport Tree Survey

The Committee discussed the results of the most recent airport tree survey. Banham explained that some trees will need to be trimmed as they do not meet the minimum clearance as required by the City vegetation ordinance for the properties in the flight path. Staff will discuss the results with the Woodfield Village HOA president.

7. Whatcom Conservation District Educational Outreach - Spring, 2021

The Committee discussed the planned outreach by the Whatcom Conservation District on behalf of the Whatcom Clean Water Program. This program will encourage residents to take measures to keep waterways clean as recent water quality tests have shown high fecal bacteria in portions of Drayton Harbor and Portage Bay shellfish growing areas.

Additionally, Banham presented a map showing on-site septic systems within City limits and their recent inspection status. Staff will be working in cooperation with the Whatcom Conservation District and the Department of Health to reach out to these owners to encourage them to evaluate the on-site septic systems. If they are having difficulties with their systems, the City will make them aware of the City's Septic to Sewer incentive program and encourage them to connect to City sewer.

8. Left Turn Designator at Front & 19th Streets Intersection

Sail Electric has ordered parts for this intersection upgrade that will add protected left turn cycles for east and west bound vehicles. Once received and installed, City of Bellingham will program the signal operation per the Interlocal Agreement.

9. Planned 2021 Grant Applications

STBG (WCOG) – Benson Road (May)
EDI (Whatcom County) – West Front Street (May)
TIB Pedestrian – Bradley Road (August)
DOE Stormwater – 9th or 10th Street (September)

10. KOA Stormwater Pond Issues

Eddy Martin and Vicki Lockhart, representing Lynden KOA, presented their concerns to the Committee regarding shoreline erosion in the KOA's ponds which they attribute in part to City stormwater drainage coming from upstream development during high rainfalls. Lockhart stated that she has seen increased flooding every year since the upstream stormwater detention system was built. The Committee discussed that the City's detention pond capacity has diminished over time due to heavy sediment and vegetation at the bottom of the pond. Martin and Lockhart asked if the City could reduce the stormwater coming to the KOA property. The Committee asked staff to review the design and operation of the City stormwater detention pond northwest of Bernice Vossbeck Elementary School (upstream of the KOA ponds) to determine if the flow might be further restricted during a heavy rainfall event.

New Business:

11. Front Street Directional Signage

Bode suggested a need for advance directional signage on Main Street (east- and west-bound) directing traffic to Front Street at 17th and 19th Street since 17th, is hard to see and many vehicles continue to use Village Drive to get to Fairway Center and Front Street.

12. Vinup and Edgewater Crosswalk

Mayor Korthuis was contacted by a resident who asked for a crosswalk to be installed at Vinup Road and Edgewater Drive. Korthuis also is bringing the request to the Public Safety Committee. The Committee discussed pedestrian safety and the limited crosswalks on this major collector street. They agreed to support a crosswalk at this location if also supported by Public Safety.

13. Interlocal Agreement , Lynden Levee repair

Banham presented a draft Interlocal Agreement between the City of Lynden and the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District for Lynden's budgeted contribution of \$20,000 to the Lynden Levee Channel Realignment Project. The agreement also addresses easements and future operations and maintenance. Work will occur just west of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Plant backwash pond. This project will install a floodgate to provide better protect the City water and sewer facilities and is being performed by a Whatcom County contractor and the Army Corp of Engineers.

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

Next Meeting: June 9, 2021