

CITY OF LYNDEN

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
360-354-3446



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

4:15 PM August 5, 2020

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

Members Absent: Gerald Kuiken with notice

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

Public Present: Gary Vis, Chris Pickering

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Minutes from July 8, 2020

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

Action

The minutes from July 8, 2020 were approved.

B. Request for Crosswalk on Grover Street near Edaleen Dairy (1011 East Grover Street)

Banham stated that staff recently received an email from Gayle Scott, 1400 Elm Street, expressing concern for the high number of pedestrians crossing Grover Street at Edaleen Dairy, 1011 E. Grover Street. She requested that staff consider installing a crosswalk in this area.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred that staff should continue to observe the area for pedestrian and vehicle traffic, but not install a sidewalk at this time. This request will also be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee for review.

C. Request for Reduced Speed on Depot Rd (Sunrise Drive to Badger Road)

Banham stated that staff received an email from Sonya Lyons, Island Green Commons Board of Directors, requesting the speed limit be reduced to 25 miles per hour on Depot Road north of Sunrise Drive.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to recommend approval of the request to reduce the speed limit to 25 miles per hour on Depot Road north of Sunrise Drive. This request will also be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee for review.

D. Faith Community Church Waterline Easement

Banham reminded the Committee that Faith Community Church has requested to connect to City water for the purpose of fire protection. Banham explained that the plan is to extend a 12-inch waterline across their frontage. They were required to obtain an easement from the adjacent property owner. The Developer Extension Agreement and Easement Agreement are included in the packet. These are required to be presented to City Council for approval.

Bode clarified that their water service will still be provided by the Berthusen Water Association.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to recommend approval of the Developer Extension Agreement and the Easement Agreement to City Council.

E. Lynden Municipal Airport PAPI Light Replacement Bid Award

Banham presented the three bids that were received for the PAPI Light replacement at the Lynden Municipal Airport. The lowest bidder was Colvico of Spokane. Bode expressed concern at the disparity between Colvico and the other two bidders. Banham noted that the engineer, Precision Approach, did talk with Colvico to get assurance that their bid was what they intended. Banham stated the difference is in the labor, and it could be an owner-operator situation.

Banham stated the cost of these repairs will be fully covered by the aircraft's insurance company.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred with proceeding with the replacement of the PAPI Light at the Lynden Municipal Airport.

F. Young Long Plat (Double Ditch Road) Request to Cash Out Water Improvements on Double Ditch Road

Sandal explained that long plats generally are required to improve the utilities across their frontage. In this situation, the Young Long Plat has requested to pay the City directly for the certified cost of improvements rather than performing the work themselves. Banham stated that the pipe upgrade would be only 60 feet.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred and recommended that staff accept the request by the Young Long Plat to cash out the water improvements associated with their plat, in lieu of performing the work.

G. Proposal to Extend Northwest Washington Fair to Ten Days in 2021

Bode introduced Chris Pickering, Northwest Washington Fair Manager. Pickering is proposing a ten-day fair in 2021, an increase from the six-day fair held in the past. He explained that this has been considered for years, and now staff has an additional year to plan for an extended fair. Pickering explained he received initial support from the Fire and Police Departments, the carnival company, and most food vendors. Pickering is in the initial planning stages and will continue to work on the fine details such as a possible Sunday church event, transportation, and lodging details for fair goers.

Action

This item was for information only.

H. County Wide Water Conservation Plan

Banham presented the Proposed Whatcom County Enhanced Water Conservation Program Budget for 2021 to 2023, using funds set aside by the County as a result of the Hirst settlement to address water conservation.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to support participation in this water conservation program.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Covid-19 Wastewater Testing Status Update

Banham Stated that the initial samples of wastewater have been received at the testing facility and the City is waiting for the first round of results.

B. Proposed Funding Application for 2021 and 2022 Projects

Banham stated that staff will be applying for the following 2021 and 2022 projects:

- TIB Pavement Preservation (2021): Vinup (Bradley to Badger)
- DOE Water Quality Grant (2022): (three applications)
- Judson, Pepin Lite, 8th/9th/10th Stormwater LID, Fairgrounds
Stormwater LID, Stormwater Capacity Grant.

Banham noted that sidewalks and ramps, including improvements related to ADA, will be addressed with the Vinup Road project like Grover.

The Committee discussed eliminating the center turn lane to allow for on-street parking and possibly adding a wider shoulder for bicycles lane on Vinup Road. Korthuis stated there are already bike lanes on Vinup. De Valois concurred, noting that is one reason why people cannot park on Vinup Road. Banham stated he will revisit the striping on Vinup Road when the roadway project is in the design phase.

C. Downtown Bike Racks

Sandal stated that Ken Stapp, of the Downtown Business Association, was supposed to provide a diagram of the bike racks. Sandal explained that the proposal is to place two at the 7th Street intersection, two at the 5th Street intersection, and some mid-block racks are proposed. The Committee noted that mid-block bike racks are a liability to pedestrians and bicycles are not allowed on downtown sidewalks. The Committee expressed disapproval of any bike racks being placed mid-block. Banham stated that staff will convey this to the Downtown Business Association.

D. PROJECT – 7th Street Extension Project Before and After Photos

Banham presented the 7th Street Extension Project before and after photos, noting that this project resulted in additional parking spaces and added power and water service to the parking lot.

E. PROJECT: WWTP Outfall Project Before and After Photos

Banham presented the before and after photos of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Project and explained that due to the new construction some effluent pumping energy demand has been reduced, which will lower the electric bill.

F. PROJECT: 17th Street Extension

Sandal presented a map showing the re-design of the crosswalk location for the 17th Street Extension project. The crosswalk has been relocated to where the trail around Fisher School reaches 17th Street, causing a natural place for people to want to cross.

De Valois asked where all the excavated materials went. Sandal stated that some residents took material. Other materials were removed by Stremler Gravel for their use.

G. PROJECT: Foxtail Street Gap Elimination

Banham presented the preliminary plans for the Foxtail Street Gap Elimination project. He noted that there needs to be an assessment reimbursement area established, assessing existing and future property owners the cost of the frontage of their utilities once the property is developed or a utility connection is requested. Properties will pay based on the length of their frontage. The Committee discussed the cost of utilities and impact fees and how to establish a new policy that could be used for all new construction. The Committee recommended including the cost of new sidewalks and discussed using this same approach to get reimbursement from the undeveloped properties on 17th Street.

H. PROJECT: East Grover Overlay

Banham stated the East Grover Overlay project is in progress. Sandal added that sewer has been stubbed out.

I. PROJECT: Benson Road Pedestrian Improvements

Banham stated the Benson Road Pedestrian Improvements project is on schedule. Sandal stated this should be done by the end of August. Korthis stated his church would be interested in a sidewalk across their frontage. Sandal stated he should contact the construction company.

J. PROJECT: Berthusen Park Restrooms

Banham stated that the invitation to bid for the Berthusen Park Restrooms project was distributed today to select contractors from the City's Small Works Roster. A pre-bid meeting will be held on-site August 13, and bids are due August 20.

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