

MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

APRIL 3, 2023

Committee Attendees:

Daron Stephens, Engineer
Dianna Layne, Deputy City Clerk
Hannah Toole, City Commissioner

Brian Sewell, Public Works Director
Kitty Strode, City Commissioner
Cameron Correll, Marketing & Events Director

NEXT MEETING – Monday, May 1, 9:30 AM, in the Training Room.

MINUTES – Hannah made a motion to approve the March 6, 2023 minutes; Brian seconded. Minutes approved.

TOWN BRANCH UPDATE – Sunesis is done with the culvert repair. Hopefully, Cesar will begin work within the next two weeks. Paving should begin the week of April 17th and then Sunesis will be out of Winchester. The Notice to Proceed has been sent to the contractor to begin work the week of April 17th on the Family Dollar side of the project. At the end of the project, the Family Dollar building will be completely encompassed with new piping or culvert.

STORMWATER ASSET INVENTORY – Buchanan should finish their part this week, and then it will just be a matter of compiling data. That should be done about two months ahead of schedule. The next phase of the project will be Oakmont and straight across the Bypass to the other side (Holiday Hills area), which will happen in FY24. All the residential area from Colby down to Lowes will be finished when that is complete. Our plan is to finish that watershed and then move to the next watershed.

FIFTH STREET UPDATE – We are waiting on the redesign based on finding the second culvert and then working with the Division of Water to get permits.

FULTON ROAD – Getting ready to go to bid. Everything is done. Brian has the go ahead to get this one on the street.

COLUMBIA GAS MAIN REPLACEMENTS – Two to three weeks left for the pipe crew and then the restoration crew will take over.

SHORT STREET – In FY24, we will look at asking Prime or Palmer to do a study from Boone to Western and Belmont to Short and include the section of the creek that goes down Southern. The property on the corner of Boone and Short has homemade boxes that were put in that are not ours. They were not put in to spec and now we are getting phone calls.

CLAY STREET PIPE REPAIR – Around 1999, on the east side of the park at 79 Clay Street, the City put in 36” elliptical corrugated pipe. The flow line is starting to rust out and it is causing sinkholes. We will line the pipe with PVC. They can do up from 6” to 48” pipe. They pull it in by a wench, heat it up by hooking a compressor to it, and blow it up like a balloon. Then let it cool and it molds to the sides of the pipe. Then we will be able to get another 20-30 years out of it. The corrugated pipe will continue to rust but the PVA will last. They can do 150’ before they must seam it. Even then it is a welded joint.

VAUGHT ROAD – This project will go out to bid this week, with a bid opening on April 25th. It is in the bid specs that they cannot start construction until school lets out and they have roughly until school restarts to have this project completed. The project will hold back the water coming down Boone by the old Ag building and the football field and track. They will ditch out the depression, put some structures in the end and turn it into detention. This will let the water from Fairholme and the golf course get out of there and then be released. By the end of the summer, we will go in and clean it out one more time.

OVERSIGHT OF DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS – Rob Jeffries joined the meeting for this discussion. A downtown building owner asked what the City is doing to ensure that another roof or wall collapse does not happen that would endanger other buildings. In disasters of this nature, the City cannot do anything for six months. Rob said the only time building owners are required to have inspections is if they are changing the use of the building, a new owner comes in or they are doing major renovations that require a building permit. If the building does not change, then it will adhere to the building code in place when the building was first built. We can look into property maintenance and the official could bring the building inspector but anything they are cited for would be on the code enforcement ordinance, not the building inspection ordinance. There really isn't a way for us to inspect buildings unless there are major changes. We could look at the possibility of incentivizing inspections (i.e., a reduction in tax rate for a routine building inspection). The downtown buildings share walls and that is a difference between the buildings downtown and the buildings on the Bypass or another area of town.

TREES IN THE DOWNTOWN RIGHT-OF-WAY – Someone reached out about putting trees downtown. There is not a lot in the ordinance about planting trees downtown. Who can place trees downtown? Who will be responsible for maintaining trees? Anything on a state highway in the right-of-way requires an encroachment permit (tree, sign, curb, etc.). Our ordinance created a local encroachment permit for signs and driveway connections to the road. We could amend that ordinance to include trees in the encroachment permit process. You have to be careful what you plant because they can come up in the sidewalk. Part of the process would be that we would approve the type of tree, and it would have to go into a tree box so the roots would not pose a problem. If the city owns the sidewalks, then the city needs to approve anything that happens on the sidewalks (trees, benches, etc.). We need to revise the sidewalk ordinance to say that the city plants and maintains the trees.

GENERAL COMMENTS – We have a second interview with a building inspector/engineer candidate this week. The candidate is very strong on the engineering side but has never performed as a building inspector. Randy will sit in the interview. Daron will be out of the office for 4-6 weeks after his surgery. Mike will conduct May's Public Works Committee meeting.

ADJOURN – Hannah made a motion to adjourn; Kitty seconded. Meeting was adjourned.



Daron Stephens, Chair



Dianna Layne, Deputy City Clerk