

# MINUTES

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

### APRIL 5, 2021

#### **Attendees:**

Daron Stephens, Engineer  
Kitty Strode, City Commissioner  
Mike Flynn, City Manager

Pat Clark, Public Works Director  
JoEllen Reed, City Commissioner  
Shanda Cecil, Planning Department  
Dianna Layne, Deputy City Clerk

#### **Special Guests:**

Chief Kevin Palmer  
Captain Harvey Craycraft

**NEXT MEETING** - May's meeting will be Monday, **May 3, 9:30 AM, in the Commission Chambers.**

**MINUTES** – The March 1, 2021 minutes were submitted. Mike made a motion to approve; Kitty seconded. Minutes were approved.

**RUMBLE STRIP DISCUSSION** – The City Manager's office has been receiving an inordinate number of complaints about speeders from citizens who want rumble strips installed in their neighborhoods. Chief Palmer and Captain Craycraft were invited to join the meeting to discuss future plans.

We currently have rumble strips on Estes Drive and Church Alley. Chief Palmer noted that the only thing that will stop speeders is to close the streets. Sometimes the complaint is valid and sometimes it is not. Many times people are upset over a single occurrence and they exaggerate the situation, so it is important to get some actual data to verify the veracity of the complaint. The Police and Public Works Departments are opposed to speed bumps and rumble strips. The speed bumps cause problems for street equipment, and the rumble strips cause resident complaints. Rumble strips have specific purposes such as the end of Mountain Parkway. They are not meant to be used as speed deterrents. Case studies have proven that these speed inhibitors have not been effective in slowing down speeders.

Chief Palmer suggested the following actions when a complaint is received:

1. Call Shondra Moser to verify the number of complaints when someone says that they have called the Police Department many times.
2. Do a work order for targeted enforcement and traffic counts.
3. Do a work order for data compilation over a period of time to see exactly what we are dealing with.

One of the current issues is a privately owned, for profit day care where the parents back out into traffic. This is an issue that they should have considered when they purchased the location and decided to have a day care. We need to ask the owners to come up with alternate methods for dropping off and picking up children so they don't have to back out in traffic. As a government entity, we cannot use advanced methods for a for profit company that we would not be willing to use for all for profit entities.

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** – Mike and Daron sat in on this meeting, which was basically an update on Fulton Road and Seventh Street. Palmer Engineering is

working on revising the water and sewer plans for Fulton Road. They have been on WMU's agenda for approval and are trying to get the reduced level of a nationwide permit. Once that is obtained, the funding is in place. Hopefully, we should see construction begin this summer. The KDOT has paid for engineering and right-of-way acquisition, which is approximately \$500,000. Regarding Seventh Street, KDOT has committed \$4.9 million to the total project cost.

**MAIN STREET SIDEWALKS** – The City Commission approved our sidewalk replacement program, and Daron should have the bid specs completed this week. Palmer Engineering is nearing completion of the design study for Main and Broadway. The Colby Ridge/Redwing sidewalk is repaired. We need to put together a list of sidewalks and curbs that need replacing.

**LINCOLN STREET DEVELOPMENT** – The main sanitary sewer is in, and they are burying all of the lateral lines. Later this week, work will begin on the water. Hopefully, we will see the change orders slow down now. Still looking at June 4<sup>th</sup> as a substantial completion date.

### **STORM WATER ISSUES**

- **307 Lexington Avenue Sinkhole** – A week ago a sinkhole opened up on Blanton Alley close to Mary Kay Haggard's Beauty Shop. As of Friday, the contractors had laid the pipe down to the 45 that goes over into the box. The soil has been about the same as the soil in front of WMU on Main Street. There is a brick seam with sand, stone, etc., which causes trouble digging. There is a lot of garbage fill material.
- **7 Lakeview Drive** – Wendy Berryman's house. Asphalt plants are opening this week, so we will be putting a berm in along her driveway. We will also be putting in a drain that should help alleviate the water runoff.

**811 SERVICE MEMBERSHIP** – Daron proposed the City joining the 811 service. If 811 receives a call, they issue a ticket, we would receive a storm sewer locate order, and have 48 hours to respond. They would send work orders for Colby Hills even though that is in the County. There is no membership cost, but each ticket costs \$1.50. Currently, we are the only underground utility that is not marked. Being a part of this service would give us a better idea of what people are doing around the City. The paint and flags are in the budget, but we will have to get approximately \$1,000 worth of locate equipment. We are estimating that the service will cost approximately \$500/month. When you consider someone digging through a storm sewer or filling in a swell, our return will be greater than what it will cost for the service. If someone does not call 811 and they dig into our storm sewer, then this protects us. If, however, they call and we go out and miss a storm sewer, then it is on us. Several problems were discussed (i.e., we don't know what is in some of the older areas, the workload will likely be more than we think, could require another person, etc.). This is a big responsibility and we need to develop a plan. Our next step is to have someone from 811 come and talk with us.

**GENERAL COMMENTS** – Pat reported that he is losing another employee.

Shanda reported a complaint on January 25<sup>th</sup> about water coming off of the interstate onto Jett Drive. Bob Baldwin and the Slones have addressed this issue with the State and gotten nowhere. The construction plans for the State took out the storm drain in the right-of-way coming off the interstate. Shanda will get back with the complainants and tell them the problem appears to be due to the construction of the State highway and anything that is to be done must be done by the State. We need to be careful not to assign responsibility. It is a private property issue with someone else and not the City of Winchester.

**ADJOURN** – Mike made a motion to adjourn; Shanda seconded. Meeting was adjourned.