

**LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
9:00 a.m.**

Members: Council Member Turner Perrow, Chair, Mayor Joan Foster ex-officio, Council Member Treney Tweedy, Council Member Sterling Wilder

Staff Present: Bonnie Svrcek, Margaret Schmitt, Lee Newland, Gaynelle Hart, Marjette Upshur, Eric Schrader, Jim Talian, Kent White, and Angie Shepard

Others Present: none

Chair and Council Member Perrow extended his congratulations to Mayor Foster and thanked her for his appointment as chair of PDC. He welcomed Vice Mayor /Council Member Tweedy and Council Member Wilder to PDC.

Council Member Perrow explained this is our standard agenda and when we get to item #3, will get in to more about the proceedings. He asked Mr. Newland to introduce himself to the new members. Mr. Newland introduced himself as the City Engineer with the Department of Public Works and Angie Shepard as a part of Community Development who acts as note taker/minutes for the meetings. He explained that the priority projects he will be giving updates on are Capital Projects from the General Fund that are greater than a \$1 million.

Update on Priority Projects:

Mr. Newland updated PDC on priority projects:

--Timberlake/Logan's Lane Intersection- in design and expects design to be finished around December 2016.

--Midtown Connector- under construction and doing punch list work.

--Greenview Drive Phase 2- VDOT design-build project-construction is underway and predicted to be complete July 2017.

--Kemper Street Bridge/Interchange- city project- is close to being complete; lighting and paving is underway and is on schedule for September completion.

--One Way Pairs @ 501/221- Smart Scale Application Submittal-this is the old HB2/VDOT funding mechanism. This project was not selected last year and will be submitted again. Applications are due by the end of September.

--Main Street Bridge- Design underway and the design should be complete in August 2017.

--Memorial-Park-Lakeside Intersection- construction is underway. Scheduled completion is October 2017.

--Odd Fellows Road- P3- construction underway; is a design-build project and scheduled for completion August 2018.

--Juvenile Services Group Home- Department of Juvenile Justice Inspection end of July- furniture being installed; plan to finish in August.

--Downtown Streetscapes- construction underway; plan to be finished in September 2017.

--LU Intramural Field Road- Phase 1- underway and planned completion October 2016.

--LU Intramural Field Road- Phase 2- notice to proceed July 18, 2016 and planned completion for April 2017.

Both of the LU projects are Revenue Sharing with 50% of funds coming from LU and 50% from the state.

Council Member Tweedy inquired as to what punch list work was for the Midtown Connector. Mr. Newland explained this was finishing up final items; items to correct. Council Member Wilder inquired as to if PDC is the correct avenue for questions on Heritage High School. He sees that it is not on the priority projects list because it is a school project but sees that Juvenile Services is because it is a city project. Council Member Perrow confirmed this is correct. Council Member Wilder expressed he was glad to see Kemper Street almost complete and inquired about the traffic signals on the Kemper Street bridge, just interested in visualizing what the final project will look like. Mr. Newland provided some detail that the previous ramps at the location were substandard and had issues with trucks turning over there in previous years. This makes the ramps less severe, moves traffic more efficiently with a better functioning intersection.

Council Member Tweedy questioned as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the grass at the Dollar General area during construction? She has received inquiries about this. Mr. Newland will address this with the construction company or Dollar General to see who is responsible for cutting the grass. Community Development may do some follow-up.

Mayor Foster expressed the Heritage High School question was a great question and she has not seen an official word on the progress. Ms. Svrcek indicated she would be speaking with Dr. Brabrand next week would get more information at that time.

Council Member Perrow indicated that he did not realize the turn on Kemper Street was now a left turn to go south. Mr. Newland responded that there has been too many rear-end crashes at that ramp and This was changed for safety. Council Member Perrow noted he would like to see a phase or two on the progress on the priority project list for the Downtown Street Scapes and Watermain Replacement.

Council Member Perrow inquired with Mr. Talian, Water Resources, as to what VDOT was currently doing that resulted in residents in the Tyreeanna Road (VDOT's 460 and 29 project) being without water over the weekend. Mr. Talian indicated that as part of the project, VDOT needed to move one of the waterlines, which was scheduled for over the weekend. VDOT had built the new waterline and it was time to switch over. VDOT may not have been fully prepared for the switching of the waterlines, which resulted in approximately 100 customers in Lynchburg City (and more in Campbell County) being affected, with no water over the weekend. Water Resources has been working with VDOT and had several meetings with them last week. This is a VDOT project.

General Business:

1. ***Burton Creek Interceptor Replacement Project-Easement Condemnation*** — *As part of the Burton Creek Interceptor Sewer Replacement project it was necessary for the City to acquire sewer easements needed to construct a replacement of the Burton Creek Interceptor Sewer. The current interceptor does not have adequate capacity for future growth and is in poor condition. The City has come to an agreement with all but one of the 38 properties along the approximately 12,000' project corridor. Despite reasonable efforts we not been able to purchase the easements located at 745 Custer Drive, Lynchburg City Tax Map No. 157-01-001. The needed easements for the property in question were appraised by Milton & Neal Properties, Inc., in April of 2016, with a value of \$1,925. The property owner has declined to sell the easements to the City. In order to construct a replacement of the Burton Creek Interceptor Sewer starting in October of 2016, the City needs to use the condemnation process to acquire the remaining easements at 745 Custer Drive.*

Mr. Schrader and Mr. Talian with Water Resources presented a summary of this project to PDC. Mr. Schrader explained this is a large project and affects the sewer line that serves the Wards Road corridor

(Sandusky- Custer Drive- Expressway-Wards Road). Mr. Schrader indicated on the map displayed on the screen the area of the project along Burton Creek. Council Member Perrow asked why this is being put in to provide some history and information for new council members to PDC. Mr. Schrader explained the current pipe is an 18 inch pipe from the 1960s. It is old and in poor condition. This project has been in the CIP (Capital Improvements Plan) for a while and they are looking to replace pipe with 30 inch pipe (three to four times the volume). This will serve the growth in the area from Liberty University, Ward Road and Campbell County. When there have been overflows, it spills in to the creek and they make repairs (bypass pumps, contractors come in). Council Member Perrow questioned as to what happens on a regulatory basis when this happens. Mr. Schrader responded that DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) can get involved and the city can accrue points. Mr. Talian indicated Water Resources is required to report overflow within five days to DEQ and what actions they have taken to address the issue. Contractors come in to help and there is a cost associated (can be \$15K-\$30K). This can all be avoided with this project. Mr. Schrader explained this project will put the city in a better place to handle the growth in the area. Mayor Foster inquired as to what it meant to accrue points with DEQ. Mr. Talian and Mr. Schrader explained this is about the City's responsiveness and accountability and points can come with fines. We have been good about reporting. Council Member Perrow emphasized that if too many points are received, then DEQ places restrictions on you, which cost money. The city received an excellent audit from EPA.

Council Member Tweedy inquired as to why the owner refused to sale the easement. Mr. Schrader explained the project is being advertised now, bids in early August and the work is to start in October. Three easements were requested at 745 Custer Drive- temporary, access and permanent. Mr. Schrader pointed out on the screen the property and how it overlaps with the existing sewer line. Council Member Perrow asked for an explanation to the committee on temporary versus permanent easements. Mr. Schrader expressed that a temporary easement is only active during construction (return to previous condition). A permanent easement allows for ongoing access. There is an existing permanent easement on this site. In March the city estimated the value of these easements and contacted property owners. There was not response from the owner at 745 Custer Drive. Another offer letter was sent to the owner after an appraisal was done in mid-May. No response received at that time. The city was later contacted by the property owner regarding a problem with drainage issues. Ms. Hart, Public Works, went out to look at the drainage issue. She met with the property owner and several other city staff. The driveway goes through a natural drainage way. The landscape had been torn out in that area. Ms. Hart was contacted by the property owner's attorney, Mr. Lucy. There is a drainage pipe at the top of the hill and there isn't any erosion there. The yard is a natural drainage way for the other properties.

A parcel view of the property was displayed on the screen for PDC. In March 2016, Ms. Hart stated to Mr. Lucy there is nothing the City can do to solve this problem. She has not heard anything else from him. The drainage and easement are not attached. Several suggestions have been made to the property owner, but it is private property and the city cannot require the property owner to implement the suggestions for dealing with the drainage issue.

Council Member Perrow noted the city needs to build this and this is asking to go through the condemnation process. The appraised value of the easement is placed in escrow and the city proceeds with the project (Quick Claim process). Council Member Tweedy agreed because Ms. Hart has been out several times to rectify the situation. Mayor Foster asked about land disturbance for the site. Mr. Schrader discussed how Water Resources will put back a healthy stand of grass. Mayor Foster also questioned the money being held in escrow, if this money is now the property owners. Council Member Perrow explained that the property owner can get the money now, or she can contest it. Council Member Tweedy asked to what percentage of the property is in the easement. Mr. Schrader and Mr.

Talian deduced that about a 1/5 (.2) of an acre are permanent easement. This is a low lying area, not a buildable area. The sewer has to go here.

Council Member Perrow noted the consensus of PDC was to move to full council, with no recommendation from PDC. Council Members Tweedy and Wilder discussed with Council Member Perrow how the process would work at council. Council Member Perrow said this would give the attorney the opportunity to show up. This can be deferred a month. It may be helpful for Council Member Perrow and Mr. Schrader to walk council though this tonight. The item was moved forward to full council without a recommendation from PDC.

2. **VDOT Revenue Sharing Awards 2017** — Staff submitted applications to participate in the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program to help with the funding of four projects. The projects were submitted and approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in June: Main Street Bridge, Timberlake/Logan’s Lane Improvements, Wards Ferry Widening; McConnville Road Culvert.

Estimated costs:

Main Street Bridge (Add’l. Funding)	\$ 6,923,812	Total Project	\$ 9,800,000
Timberlake/Logan’s Lane Imp. (Add’l. Funding)	5,063,550	Total Project	\$ 8,828,350
Wards Ferry Road Widening (Construction)	3,073,500	Total Project	\$ 4,253,500
McConnville Road Culvert	1,500,000	Total Project	\$ 1,950,000
Total	\$16,560,862		\$24,831,850

The Wards Ferry widening is from Timberlake to improve access to the new Heritage High School. The McConnville Road Culvert is a replacement and realignment of roadway to improve the vertical curve. The project has been designed and right of way secured and only needs construction funding.

Mr. Newland stated the city was awarded funding for Revenue Sharing projects and received notification from VDOT for these funds. Council Member Perrow asked if this was consistent with the CIP and Ms. Svrcek confirmed. She also noted that several staff participated in a VDOT 101 training on Monday to learn about funding sources VDOT has available. The revenue sharing will go down in the future because of funds being diverted to the Smart Scale program. HB2 is now known as Smart Scale.

3. **Physical Development Committee** – The Physical Development Committee (PDC) reviews the guidelines every two years to ensure the committee is organized for a high degree of effectiveness and efficiency.

Mr. Newland explained that when the city reconvenes with new members at PDC, a review of the guidelines is done. Any changes are made and then it goes to full council. Council Member Perrow conveyed the intent of the Physical Development Committee is to dig in to specific issues that would get bogged down at council. Examples given of items that come to PDC are sewer line extension policies, water line extension policies, sidewalk cost sharing, right-of-way vacations, etc. This allows members to ask specific questions about the projects presented. They do get in to the CIP as far as how CIP is structured, and help guide projects.

The members had reviewed the guidelines when sent out. Council Member Wilder noted how helpful this information was being a new member. The consensus is to update these to 2016 and submit to council with PDC’s recommendation.

Roll Call:

Council Member Tweedy inquired about a traffic assessment being done on Rives Street and if there is any increased traffic due to the closure. She received a call from a neighbor that there was more speeding around Shaffer Street. Mr. Newland indicated a traffic assessment was done before the item went to City Council. Ms. Svrcek responded that an oral report would be given tonight at council and she will check with the Police Department on enforcement in the area. It was also noted that Ms. Cossman, Traffic Engineer, may be able to be present at the council meeting tonight to answer any questions. Mayor Foster and Council Member Wilder indicated the calls they have received were positive feedback from residents. Some discussion was had on the possibility of a Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) that is neighbor initiated.

Council Member Wilder expressed he had received an email regarding a dilapidated house on Washington Street (Harrison/Washington). The inquiry was about what action had been taken and wanted to follow up. Mr. White, Community Development, stated the owner of the home is deceased and Council Member Perrow noted that the Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority are looking in to it. Mr. White indicated this is currently in court and he will look more in to it and report back.

Council Member Perrow mentioned an article in the Water Environmental Federation Journal about the Water Resources computer operations system and how cutting edge it is. He wanted to commend them on this recognition. Mayor Foster feels this, like other information, should make headlines and be in The Source (City of Lynchburg newsletter).

PDC members and staff discussed the dates and times for ongoing PDC meetings now that new members were a part of the committee. Consensus is to have meetings starting on August 9th, on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m.

Next meeting: August 9, 2016 at **8:00 a.m.**