

**LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, September 11, 2018
8:00 a.m.**

Members: Council Member Turner Perrow, Chair, Council Member Mary Jane Dolan, Council Member Sterling Wilder, Mayor Treney Tweedy, ex-officio

Staff Present: Bonnie Svrcek, Reid Wodicka, Gaynelle Hart, Kent White, Don Deberry, Lee Newland, Jim Talian, and Angie Shepard

Others Present Carrie Dungan, The News & Advance; Shawn Deyo, Level 3 Communications, LLC

Update on Priority Projects:

- Timberlake Road/Logan's Lane Intersection- Construction underway
- Wards Ferry Road Improvements @ Heritage- construction underway
- Main Street Bridge- Construction underway-deck poured- proceeding on schedule
- Fifth Street Phase 3- Construction underway-on schedule
- Liberty Mountain Drive- Phase 3- construction underway-on schedule
- Odd Fellows Road- Section A and B1- Punchlist items being completed/ramp and interchange are open
- Odd Fellows Road- Section B2- Construction underway – Bridge to close on October 8
- VDOT Median Barrier Replacement 29 North- Construction underway
- Downtown Watermain Replacement & Streetscape 2- Survey and Design Underway
- Main Street Renewal Project-Survey and Design Underway and working with AEP
- Indian Hill Road Bridge—In Design
- College Lake Dam- Environmental Permitting Underway
- One Way Pairs @501/221- NEPA Document Underway- Public Meeting October
- Police Department Headquarters- Environmental and Demolition RFP's Being Prepared

Mayor Tweedy asked about the backups that were occurring at the intersection of Timberlake Road and Wards Ferry Road as a result of the ramp construction and Wards Ferry Road improvements.

Mr. Deberry explained that construction was not not yet finished and not all lanes are open. The signal has been adjusted once, but the contractor is still having some issues with the signal control equipment. The project is on schedule and is expected to be completed in the next six to eight weeks at which time we expect the intersection to function much better.

Mr. Newland added that the contractor is expected to close the ramp on Sunday, September 16th until Tuesday, September 18th for paving; that work is weather dependent.

Council Member Perrow asked if notice of the closure had been advertised. Mr. Newland confirmed it had been and there was an article in the paper about the closure the previous day.

General Business:

- 1. Blanket License Agreement- Install Aerial Fiber Optic Cable**— *Level 3 Communications, LLC has submitted multiple requests to install aerial fiber optic cable and underground conduit in city owned rights-of-way and property throughout the City of Lynchburg. Level 3 has installed and/or purchased installations throughout the City, but did not have agreements for all of their facilities. In an attempt to get them into compliance, staff has been working with Level 3 to get up to date mapping of the facilities. With the blanket agreement, Level 3 will have to submit a new map and go through the Technical Review Committee for review and follow all requirements of the City Code before any new facilities can be installed. The immediate need/project is to provide improved internet service to Centra Health.*

Council Member Perrow disclosed he has a business level interest in Level 3 Communications, LLC. The interest does not rise to the level of a personal interest but he wanted to disclose it nonetheless. He does not have a conflict of interest and can vote on this matter.

Mr. Newland introduced Shawn Deyo with Level 3 Communications, LLC to answer any questions associated with the project. Mr. Newland explained this as an application for a blanket license agreement to cover Level 3's aerial and underground fiber work in the City. Level 3 Communications has had several projects in the past which have been approved by City Council. They also have had some projects that have been installed without license agreements so staff thought it best to issue the blanket agreement to cover all past installations as well as future installations under one agreement. All future projects would still require staff review but each individual project would not require Council approval.

Vice Mayor Dolan asked Mr. Newland to explain the down side of not doing the agreement. Mr. Newland explained that it extended the timeframe of the process; each individual agreement takes approximately 3 months to go through staff review, Physical Development Committee and City Council to gain approval. This change would keep them from having to go through the last two steps.

Council Member Perrow asked Mr. Deyo to explain the services provided by Level 3 Communications, LLC. Mr. Deyo explained they have leased fiber agreements with carriers such as Comcast to provide services to customers. Council Member Perrow followed that expediting this process was a way for the City to help increase fiber capacity and bandwidth to help businesses do business. Mr. Newland explained that the immediate project would serve Centra Health.

Council Member Wilder noted that he had a private homeowner issue that was not directly related to this. The homeowner had not been notified about digging on their property and wanted to confirm the utility needed to have an easement. He said he would send the information to Mr. Newland for review.

Ms. Svrcek asked if the item would go to City Council on September 25th. Mr. Newland said it would provided they could meet the advertising deadline for the public hearing. If not, it would be scheduled for October 9th.

Consensus of PDC was to move the agreement forward to City Council with recommendation to approve.

- 2. 501-221 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) alternatives-** *As part of the NEPA process we are required to develop and evaluate feasible alternatives. We have narrowed the feasible alternatives down to those attached. Staff will provide updated status as the alternatives depicted in the attachments are currently being evaluated in detail.*

Don Deberry explained the City was in the process of conducting the NEPA analysis for the proposed one way facility that would tie in to the Northwest Expressway near the intersection of 501-221. As part of the process, they are required by the Federal Highway Administration to review alternatives even though

Council adopted the proposed alternative in 2006. They reviewed fifteen feasible “at grade” alternatives and have narrowed that list to four options. Grade separated alternatives were not considered. These alternatives are still in development for an upcoming public meeting on October 4th. These options were selected using Virginia Department of Transportation’s Virginia Intersection Justification tool. In addition to the “one way pair” option Council originally adopted, the other “at grade” alternatives include:

- a median u-turn lane;
- a quadrant intersection alternative;
- an additional signalized intersection on the Lynchburg Expressway.

Although all four are still being considered as part of the study, at least a couple of them will likely fail because of environmental, social and/or other ancillary impacts such as right-of-way impacts.

This is an informational item only and does not require action by the Physical Development Committee.

Council Member Wilder asked about the timeframe for this process. Mr. Deberry explained that the City was currently undertaking the environmental study (NEPA) and is negotiating the design and right-of-way portion of the project. The hope is to start the 2-year design process next summer. The City has also applied for a \$16 million “Smart Scale” federal grant to construct the alternative. If the grant is approved, the funding would not be available until 2024.

Council Member Tweedy asked if Breezewood Drive would be widened as part of one of the alternatives. Mr. Deberry said it could but emphasized the alternatives are still in design and the specifics of some of the alternatives are still unclear.

3. Update on WWTP Construction-

Mr. Talian introduced the project, noting that construction should begin in approximately one month with mobilization and installation of erosion control measures. In November, the contractor would begin demolition of the warehouse building followed by installation of sheet piling in December. The project will include the excavation of a twenty foot deep hole the size of a football field for the new storage basin.

Council Member Perrow asked if the shoring and excavation will take place at once. Mr. Talian confirmed it would.

It will take approximately one year to complete the excavation, installation of foundation and rock anchors. It will take approximately another year after that to finish the plant.

The improvements will meet three required goals of the Long Term Control Plant:

- Upgrades to the headworks building to increase pumping capacity into the plant;
- The addition of a tank to store up to 4 million gallons of water;
- Increased chlorination to reduce the impacts of the combined sewer overflow.

The project also includes additional power generation capacity so the headworks building can continue to operate in the event of power failure. Some items that were desired that could not be included in the project due to cost were the addition of a new warehouse and some other electrical upgrades. The City will close on the \$32 million dollar loan with Department of Environmental Quality and Virginia Resource Authority next week. That along with the \$30 million dollar grant and another half million dollar loan will fund the project.

Council Member Perrow inquired if they would be working below water level. Mr. Talian did not believe so but much of the work in the project was to prevent the storage tank from floating during high water levels.

4. College Lake funding assistance-

Mr. Talian explained the City is entering into an agreement with Preston Bryant from McGuire Woods Consulting to explore funding options for the dam through the State and possibly Federal Government. The retainer with Mr. Bryant will be for eight months. Options include discussions with the Governor's office to try to get assistance for the dam included in the state's budget; with representatives from the General Assembly to review options during the legislative process; and with senior staff to see what programs we might qualify.

Ms. Svrcek added we are pursuing this in conjunction with University of Lynchburg to leave no stone unturned to assist with this project.

Roll Call:

Council Member Wilder stated he had several items which he would email to the City Manager for follow up.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2018