

**LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, November 10, 2015
9:00 a.m.**

Members: Council Member Turner Perrow, Chair, Council Member Ceasar Johnson, Mayor Michael Gillette, ex-officio

Staff Present: Bonnie Svrcek, Gaynelle Hart, Lee Newland, Rachel Frischeisen, Kent White, Tom Martin, Kevin Henry, Jim Talian, Angie Shepard

Others Present: Proctor Harvey and Eames Powers, Spring Hill Cemetery Association

Contract Awards:

There were no new contracts awarded.

Update on Priority Projects:

Mr. Newland provided a general update on the following Capital projects:

--Kemper Street Bridge: moving forward, no real change and progressing nicely

--Lower Bluffwalk: closing out

--Memorial- Park- Lakeside intersection: bids being reviewed by VDOT

--Downtown Streetscapes: 50% plans are in; Public meeting to be held November 17th

--LU Intramural Field: Phase I- trying to sign contracts now; Phase II- both are Revenue sharing projects; reviewing plans and are getting ready to approve so it can be bid

Mayor Gillette asked for an updated completion expectancy on the Kemper Street Bridge project. Mr. Newland anticipates the end of summer 2016; project is currently ahead of schedule but we are heading in to the winter months. Council Member Perrow had some questions about the Langhorne Road Midtown Connector and Downtown Streetscapes. Ms. Hart anticipates Langhorne being paved in the next few weeks, possibly before Thanksgiving. Mr. Newland noted the public meeting for the Downtown Streetscapes is on November 17th at the Holiday Inn Select and a contract manager (English) has been selected.

General Business:

1. ***Right-of-way vacation: Rives Street*** — Ms. Frischeisen with Planning introduced Proctor Harvey (Board Member) and Eames Powers (Secretary/Treasurer and Managing Director) of the Spring Hill Cemetery. Ms. Frischeisen explained the right-of-way vacation request from Spring Hill Cemetery at Rives Street between James Street and Gordon Street as a removal of a portion of Rives Street to create a contiguous area for the cemetery. This is a developed, active portion of the street. A recommendation from Planning for denial of the right-of-way vacation was made. Ms. Frischeisen explained the recommendation based on a loss of connectivity that would negatively impact the neighborhood. Ms. Frischeisen also explained an approval of this right-of-way vacation would require some reconfiguration changes for traffic flow since some adjoining streets are one direction.

Mr. Harvey expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak. The cemetery is over 160 years old, tight on space and they have started to purchase properties in the neighborhood. Mr. Harvey passed

out a map of the cemetery, with a little more detail, to the committee that denotes the current cemetery boundary, properties purchased, and future cemetery boundary. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Powers expressed there are parcels the cemetery is working toward purchasing. They have fixed up some properties for rent, provided maintenance and trying to follow through on suggestions in previous years in regards to the request for the right-of-way vacation. They are actively moving toward purchasing the entire area. Mr. Powers alluded to the history of meetings with Jeff Scarano and Keith Thompson in 2009 about if the city would spend money on infrastructure in the area of the cemetery that would be of little or no use, as well as a meeting with Jim Talian in 2012 to review Spring Hill Cemetery's plans for expansion and what impact this may have. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Powers indicated on the map what the cemetery currently owns in purple and the twelve remaining properties. A street vacation would eliminate the traffic. Mr. Powers expressed that once the cemetery moves forward with the purchase of all the properties, it would then be one contiguous, enclosed cemetery. In particular the areas of Blackburn, James and Shaffer would need to be reviewed based on the cemetery's plan. Mr. Harvey expressed they understand the need for connectivity, but want the city to be aware of the cemetery's goals and the idea is to save the city money. Mr. Talian confirmed the information Mr. Powers shared about the 2012 discussion was correct and utilities on the Callahan side had been replaced but not the east and southside and an easement would go through the area.

Council Member Perrow asked Ms. Frischeisen about the future land use of the property and zoning of the area. Future land use was not known at the time and the zoning is R3. Council Member Johnson stated he would like for the city to have a right-of-way and connectivity and if this is given up, the city would only have water in the area. He would like for the city to hold on to the right-of-way but willing to hear the whole discussion. Mayor Gillette expressed a concern of timing versus substance and asked when Spring Hill Cemetery plans to get the remaining parcels. Mr. Powers responded they are looking at an acquisition process over the next ten years.

Mayor Gillette feels this may be a little premature for a plan that will take ten years in accomplishing. Vacating land and roads that are still needed for connectivity right now may be a problem. He understands the cemetery wanting safety and quiet but suggested at this point to retain the right-of-way but possibly install types of traffic controls at the corners of the property (i.e. speed bumps or ballards) as a way to meet the cemetery's purpose and need without prematurely vacating a road. Mr. Harvey noted the idea for the future is to make the cemetery a destination point, to create a place where people want to go and security for the property helps with that. A look at what this does to roads around the area, cut throughs and getting around needs to be done. Discussion was had among council members about what cost is saved by not putting infrastructure in the area, what cost may have already been saved, and what the objective is. Mr. Talian noted that money has already been saved by not putting infrastructure here. Council members discussed bringing this item forward to full Council without recommendation. Council Member Perrow suggested other council members ride out to the area to take a look at it. Mr. Martin with Planning noted to the Committee that the main cemetery and pieces across Rives Street are indicated institutional use and the other parts the cemetery has purchased are low-medium density residential areas. There would need to be future land use and conditional use permits done for future planning. Mayor Gillette noted an approval plan would have to be looked at by the council to include a traffic flow study and change in future land use.

Mr. Powers and Mr. Harvey with Spring Hill stated that 22 dwellings had been removed and that if a decent home, it had been remodeled and rented. They have improved the neighborhood and gotten rid of blight. Discussions were held about the possibilities of severing water lines and any possible rerouting. Mr. Powers and Mr. Harvey were agreeable to coming back to PDC first for further discussion. Council members were in agreement to have the right-of-way vacation at Rives Street come back to the PDC committee first before moving the item to full Council.

- 2. TAP application: Sidewalks for Safe Routes to School** – *There have been requests for sidewalks to complete the route from the Dearington Heights Apartments to Dearington Elementary School, the neighborhood market and GLTC bus stop since the original Safe Routes to School project. This section was originally left out due to inadequate funding. The application requests 80% federal reimbursement through the Transportation Alternatives Program to construct a sidewalk. Design is complete. The application requires an adoption of endorsement resolution by City Council.*

Mr. Newland explained that the original Safe Routes project was applied for in 2011 and awarded for the Dearington neighborhood. This section had to be cut out due to funding. A request is being made for the submission of a TAP application for sidewalks on one side of Stoneridge which connects Jefferson Park to Caroline Street at Dearington Elementary. Council Member Perrow recommended bringing the item forward to Council with PDC recommendation.

- 3. VDOT Revenue Sharing-** *Staff is proposing to participate in the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program to help with the funding of four projects: Main Street Bridge, Timberlake/Logan’s Lane Improvements, Wards Ferry Road Widening and an un-named road off Lakeside Drive.*

Mr. Newland stated this city has participated in the VDOT Revenue Sharing for a number of years. The assistance by the city in the funding would help in the Main Street Bridge project, improvements to Timberlake/Logan’s Lane, and widening of Wards Ferry in front of Heritage High School. The Lakeside Center project is a partnership project with a Developer which creates access to the parcel. The developer will contribute from a CDA for their share and VDOT would fund the other 50% from Revenue Sharing Funds. For the other projects the City’s share is from City’s Capital funds and the other 50% is from VDOT.

Council Member Perrow noted to bring the item forward to Council with PDC’s recommendation.

- 4. VDOT Revenue Sharing: Campbell County/Liberty University-** *Campbell County has requested the City of Lynchburg to support their participation in partnership with Liberty University to construct Liberty Mountain Drive Off-Ramp and Roundabout from Campbell County into the City of Lynchburg. This ramp would connect from Route 460 Eastbound Lane to the existing Liberty Mountain Drive. Although Liberty Mountain Drive is within the City Limits, it is a VDOT maintained road and would not require any additional maintenance from the City.*

Mr. Newland commented this roundabout would be off 460 and Campbell County is participating in it and Campbell County can apply for Revenue Sharing funds. The purpose is to help move the traffic off Liberty Mountain Drive. Campbell County would be responsible for applying and the City would be supporting the resolution to move traffic in and off 460 better than what it is flowing now. Council Members discussed and were in agreement.

Council Member Perrow made the recommendation for bringing this forward to Council with PDC’s recommendation.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gillette commented he received a complaint from a citizen about the person who lives on Fifth Street with all the signs and if some of this is within the City's Right-of-Way. Mr. White noted this and there may be some issues with where the right-of-ways are.

Next meeting: December 8, 2015