

**LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, March 11, 2014
9:00 a.m.**

Members: Council Member Turner Perrow, Chair, Council Member Joan Foster, Mayor Michael Gillette, ex-officio

Staff Present: Kimball Payne, Bonnie Svrcek, Gaynelle Hart, Kevin Henry, Lee Newland, Starlette Early

Others Present: Russ Nixon (Nixon Landscaping), Bobby Bennett (Randolph College), John Wood (Randolph College), Alicia Petska (News & Advance)

(Council Member Perrow noted Vice Mayor Ceasor Johnson is attending the National League of Cities meeting.)

Contract Awards:

There were no new contract awards for this month.

Update on Priority Projects:

Mr. Newland provided an update on projects changed since the last PDC meeting:

- Wards Road Pedestrian Crossing 2B- Pre-construction scheduled for March 19th;
- Memorial Park/ Lakeside Intersection- bid received on March 5 was \$700,000 above the \$1.2 million budget; engineer is reviewing the numbers to determine issue with high bid results
- Odd Fellows Road P3- VDOT is postponing advertisement of RFP until late April/early May

Mr. Payne discussed upcoming action necessary by Council to adopt resolutions for VDOT regarding segments B1 and B2 (section of road from Interchange to the Expressway) of the Odd Fellows Road project. He noted these segments must be incorporated into VDOT's Six Year Master Transportation Plan and will be moved forward to their Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Council Member Perrow indicated his concern about the bids received for Memorial Park/Lakeside Intersection and there was discussion regarding identification of the problematic issues in the project contributing to higher than expected bids.

General Business:

1. ***Vacate a portion of right of way on Delta Street between 4021 & 4025 Wards Road***— Lynchburg Hotel Group, LLC is petitioning to vacate a portion of right of way between 4021 and 4025 Wards Road. This portion of right of way currently serves as a "hammerhead" truck turnaround near the terminus of Delta Street. The area is approximately fifty-five thousandths (.055) of an acre and fifty-eight (58) feet in width at the frontage along Delta Street. The petitioner has requested this portion of right of way be vacated in order to accommodate parking at 4021 Wards Road for the hotel use. The petitioner has also proposed a public easement, which would replace the current truck turnaround. The proposed public easement is shown on the plat with a hatching that circles the parking

lot. Both property owners who adjoin the portion of right of way to be vacated are in agreement with the proposal. Pending revisions to the plat for public easement by the surveyor, there would be minimal impact with the vacation of this portion of the right of way.

Mr. Henry described the specific area being proposed for the vacation and noted the request was to facilitate development of a new hotel and associated required parking. Discussions clarified purpose of the existing hammerhead as a 3-point turnaround for emergency response vehicles and addressed concerns regarding impact on other vehicles needing turnaround access. Mr. Nixon reported the site plan incorporates a public access easement for use by the City's utility vehicles and confirmed the access to end of street for all public traffic would continue. Further discussion noted appropriate pedestrian markings will meet the required ordinance. Mr. Nixon summarized the history for the existing hammerhead as a contingency for the existing Hilton Garden Inn, and confirmed an interim workaround would be incorporated into the design during construction of the new hotel.

Consensus from the committee was to move this forward to Council with their recommendation to vacate the right-of-way, contingent on the establishment of an easement for emergency vehicle turnaround and a temporary area during construction.

- 2. License Agreement for Installation of Fiber Optic Cable from 2500 Rivermont Avenue to 2715 Rivermont Avenue** – *Randolph College has submitted a request for installation of approximately 55 feet of fiber optic cable in city right-of-way from 2500 Rivermont Avenue (college campus) to 2715 Rivermont Avenue. The college plans to begin renovations to 2715 Rivermont Avenue in May to provide residential housing for students this fall. The college will provide the same technology options to the student residential housing at 2715 Rivermont Avenue as would be found on campus. This bore will allow Randolph College to bring fiber optic cable from their campus to the student housing at 2715 Rivermont Avenue.*

The address was corrected to 2717 Rivermont Avenue, noting 2715 Rivermont is the back building located on the same property.

Mr. Newland explained the request, noting it was similar to a request the College made several years earlier to connect an administrative building located across the same road. Mr. Wood indicated their request centered on connecting these buildings to the campus fire safety notification system and resident safety requirements, explaining wireless options investigated did not provide the level of security needed for the card access door systems.

Discussions regarding the process to bore under the pavement confirmed there was no anticipated traffic disruption or plans to tear up the current road. Existing utility maps and engineering diagrams would be thoroughly examined to avoid any obstacles during the process. Council Member Perrow suggested the College carefully consider the impact to the surrounding community as it plans construction and expansion into nearby residential areas. To facilitate communication between Randolph College and the surrounding neighborhoods, Council Member Foster suggested the expansion plans would be a good topic for an upcoming Town and Gown meeting.

There was additional discussion regarding number of students expected to live in the new campus dorm housing (46), crossing the road safely with an enhanced cross-walk, and management of student parking at the new dorm site.

The committee agreed to move the request forward to City Council with their full support for approval.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gillette inquired about status of striping and markings near Bedford Hills Elementary. Staff indicated it will be completed as weather permits. There was additional discussion regarding signage and markings to facilitate traffic control and the design of collector streets to encourage alternate traffic patterns away from busy streets.

Mayor Gillette also inquired about possible changes to the site plans at the Bojangles under construction on Old Forest Road. Information he received from a neighbor talking with construction crews indicated the building would need to be oriented differently to address unexpected set-back issues on the lot. He asked staff to confirm and review any proposed changes to the approved site plans.

Next meeting: April 8, 2014