

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
8:00 a.m.

Members: Council Member Treney Tweedy, Chair
Council Member Sterling Wilder
Council Member Chris Faraldi
Mayor Dolan, ex-officio

Staff Present: Reid Wodicka
Kent White
Lee Newland
Gaynelle Hart
Victoria Glasgow
Marjette Upshur

Others Present: N/A

Ms. Tweedy called the meeting to order and began with Mr. Newland and recent/pending contract awards.

Recent/Pending Contract Awards: N/A
- Presented by Lee Newland

Mr. Newland reported that for this month we don't have any recent/pending contract awards.

Priority Projects:
- Presented by Lee Newland

Mr. Newland indicated that on the priority projects list it appears to be getting short. The reason being that we have several large projects going on that is taking a lot of time. We have a lot of large projects under design and small projects in design that are under the \$1 million-dollar threshold.

1. Main Street Renewal Project – Construction underway.
2. Lakeside Drive Bridge over Blackwater Creek – Construction underway and we are making great progress.
3. CSO – Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – On-going and the main part of the construction will be finished this month.
4. Link Road Bridge – Construction underway and the road is closed and proceeding.

In Design:

1. One Way Pairs @ 501/221 – We have 60 % plans in and we are discussing how we are going to hold the public meeting that is required by VDOT.
2. Downtown Watermain Replacement & Streetscape Phase 2 – Is in design and we will be ready to go on this as soon as the Main Street Renewal Project is complete.
3. Police Department Headquarters – Is in pre-design and we are reviewing the budget estimates, conceptual designs and other design options.
4. Fifth Street Phase 4 – Is in design and that is probably at about 25%.

Ms. Tweedy questioned where we were on the Main Street Renewal Project. Mr. Newland responded by stating that they are continuing to work on the streetscape part of it. Between 8th and 9th they are pretty much complete except for landscaping. Between 10th and 11th they are getting close to being complete on the streetscape. They still have the 900 block and the 1200 block gets the cobble arrival pad features in the bricks.

Mr. Faraldi questioned the One Way Pairs @ 501/221 being at 60% review of plans last month as well. Mr. Newland responded by stating that we were waiting on 60% plans last month.

Ms. Dolan questioned when we would receive more information regarding the Police Department Headquarters. Mr. Wodicka responded by stating that there will be a discussion in February at the council meeting. We will talk about the most updated cost estimates and other issues.

General Business:

1. Advantage Court ROW Vacation:

- **Presented by Victoria Glasgow**

Ms. Glasgow reported that Ed Willman, on behalf of O Mayflower, LLC, is petitioning to vacate the Advantage Court right-of-way located off of Chiles Circle. The right-of-way vacation would facilitate the future development of the adjacent property for industrial use. The total area of the proposed vacation is approximately nine hundred seventy-nine thousandths (0.979) of an acre.

The area to be vacated includes an unpaved gravel drive. The vacation would not impact vehicle or pedestrian access along Advantage Court or Chiles Circle. The value of the property is anticipated to be approximately \$9,790.

Ms. Tweedy indicated that the valuation was a little high and were we okay with that. Mr. Wodicka responded by stating that it would create a better situation for the city. Mr. Faraldi questioned what is it typically. Ms. Tweedy indicated about \$5,000. Mr. Wodicka indicated that it is larger, almost an acre.

Ms. Tweedy asked for a motion to approve this vacation. Mr. Wilder made a motion for approval and it was seconded by Mr. Faraldi. Ms. Tweedy questioned if we anticipate a business. Mr. Wodicka indicated that it was Lynchburg Ready-Mix.

2. Chiles Circle ROW Vacation:

- **Presented by Victoria Glasgow**

Ms. Glasgow reported that Ed Willman, on behalf of O Mayflower, LLC, is petitioning to vacate a portion of Chiles Circle right-of-way, located off of Carroll Avenue and Chiles Circle. The total area

of the proposed vacation is approximately two hundred eight-seven thousandths (0.287) of an acre. The right-of-way vacation would facilitate the future development of the adjacent property for industrial use.

The area to be vacated includes an unpaved gravel drive. The vacation would not impact vehicle or pedestrian access along Chiles Circle or Carroll Avenue. The value of the property is anticipated to be approximately \$4,856.

Ms. Tweedy asked for a motion to vacate the right-of-way and forward it to council. Mr. Wilder made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Faraldi. Ms. Tweedy feels that the valuation will be a question at council. Mr. Wodicka indicated that he would have the Assessor re-evaluate that.

Roll Call:

Mr. Faraldi:

Mr. Faraldi stated that he read the information provided by staff but wanted an update on where we stand on trash. Ms. Hart indicated that through the CARES Act it was decided to retrofit 6 of our automated trucks. We sent one of those trucks out and when you send them out they have to be gone thirty to forty-five days. We have to take the truck out of service, make repairs and get it ready to transport. They have to work on it and then bring it back. We have one truck out for service and it will back to us soon. What we have done after consulting with the City Manager's Office is we decided to suspend that operation of retrofitting until we can get our two new trucks. We have two new trucks ordered and hopefully they will come in August. July or August, that is what we were told by the vendor. At that time, we can consider retrofitting.

The problem is that we have six trucks and when we take one out of service that automatically takes us down to five. If you have any mechanical problems at all and it takes us down to four. That is when we cannot get the trash up. Staff has done everything they can to overcome. We have put a truck out there with a trailer on it to pick up trash. We had every vehicle we had in the field. Staff has been out there until seven, eight, nine o'clock trying to get trash up.

Mr. Faraldi stated that he has seen them out later. Ms. Hart stated that we can't keep working staff like that. When that truck gets back I think it should be stabilized. That is my hope is to get the fleet stabilized. The two new trucks will help us. They are not replacement trucks they will be additions to the fleet. In the long run we can keep the older trucks on the back line and that way when a truck goes down we can just pick up another truck. Every day we put everything we have in the field. That is not appropriate for a critical service such as this. In December for about ten to fifteen years we fully cleaned up the city. We picked up about five hundred tons of brush and bulk with about eight hundred stops.

The brush and bulk are stabilized and it is my hope to continue that. Ms. Hart also stated that it is difficult to hire people when the work is hard. Finding people that can pass the alcohol and drug test is also a barrier. The good news is that we have cleaned up brush and bulk. The bad news is that we continue to struggle with residential trash pick-up. Ms. Hart indicated that she feels that we can get it fixed. We just need that other truck to come back.

Mr. Faraldi indicated that he is concerned with this being a reoccurring problem. He asked if

there was something we could do to inform the community in addition to the social media. The perception of the community is that they increased our cost and not picking up the trash. When we get the other truck back will that solidify that for the next 3 months. Ms. Hart indicated that she can respond but doesn't want to make promises that she can't keep. We have been able to be on time for residential trash with it being 5 or 6 o'clock at night that we have been out late. If we can get the truck back in service that will help us a tremendous amount. We are trying to lease a truck. Ms. Hart is working with the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Office to lease a truck. Just to get us some cushion.

Ms. Hart indicated that she knows that people are upset about the fee. The fee is an increase to those who had a thirty-two-gallon cart and those are the people who are most upset. If you had a sixty-four-gallon cart it's not that much difference. We have put out about twenty-two hundred carts. People upgrading their carts and the positive side of that is less trash on the ground. People are actually putting their trash in the cart. The ten-dollar fee has nothing to do with the service problem that we are having.

Mr. Faraldi indicated that the moment in October when we made the increase then we started having an issue. He thanked her for the staff being out that late to get it done. He mentioned by the Plaza near the Fort there is a set of trash cans that are overflowed. There is a Food Lion and then the laundry mat and across from there. If someone could be sent over to get that trash would be great. Ms. Hart indicated that she is very cautious about responding to social media because that some of the people complaining doesn't live in the city or get trash service.

Ms. Dolan indicated that she felt we could be more positive on social media. That would be very helpful. Something people don't understand is that we have six routes and six trucks. If you take one out that destroys the continuity of it.

Ms. Tweedy wanted to follow-up on the lease option. If there is something that we can do, we need to do it. Ms. Hart responded by stating that we can probably get it flushed out and the truck in 2 days. It would be safe to say about a week. It is coming out of Cleveland. That is my understanding. If the contract gets done this week we should be able to get the truck next week. Ms. Tweedy indicated that on Richland Drive someone has set out theater chairs. Someone has picked up one of them. Mr. Wodicka questioned Ms. Hart about the trash pick up day. Ms. Tweedy stated that it is on Monday. It has been there for a while.

Mr. Wilder thanked Ms. Hart for her assistance and commended her staff being out late at night and on Sunday morning. It looks much better. We are thankful of the hard work that the staff is doing. Mr. Wodicka compared to 6 months ago it looks a lot better. Mr. Wodicka indicated that we would be bringing some items to budget to help support the people in the field. Resources are needed in the field. Ms. Tweedy shared that she is not pushing back with people on social media but is when she is face to face with people.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 a.m.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2021