

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
CITY OF FORT THOMAS
TUESDAY MARCH 26, 2019

Chairman Ken Bowman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 26, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the city building. Committee members present: Ken Bowman, Jeff Bezold, Adam Blau. Others present: City Administrative Officer Ron Dill, City Engineer Frank Twehues, Director of General Services Kevin Barbian.

Chairman Bowman explained the resurfacing program, and that the public hearing was being conducted in compliance with state statute.

City Engineer, Frank Twehues, described the construction methods and scope of work for the streets involved in the program.

City Administrator, Ron Dill, provided a funding report for the resurfacing program.

Chairman Bowman then asked for public comments. Public comments are as follows:

103 Ohio Ave – Jordan Dunbar – stated they are fronting on Ohio Ave. and are being assessed on Ridgeway Ave. even though they do not use it. Mr. Dill explained that statute defines “front foot” as frontage on any street.

125 Ohio Ave – Jeremy Villarreal- asked for clarification of cost for curb and how they are evaluated for replacement. Mr. Dill & Mr. Twehues detailed the process for evaluating curbs and the criteria used to determine “defective” curbing that qualifies for replacement.

2221 N. Ft. Thomas Ave – Mike Wilson – questioned the rationale for not including residents on side streets into the cost of resurfacing on N Ft Thomas Ave. Mr. Dill explained that statute does not allow “other” residents to be included unless they have frontage on a given street in the program.

2181 N. Ft. Thomas Ave – Fred Gilliam – requested further details of plans for the street; whether curbs, bike lanes, and drainage are included in plans. He offered that drainage is an issue for his and the adjacent homes on either side. Mr. Twehues explained the details of construction and noted the request to review drainage at that location.

177 Ridgeway Ave. – Joshua Tibbs – Noted the need to review curbs along the end of Ridgeway Ave. because he experiences drainage “jumping” the curb along his frontage due to the low profile. It was added for on-site inspection for staff.

1031 Alexandria Pike – Doug Deaton Jr. – Non-resident representing First Christian Church –asked if the church is exempt from assessment, timing of project, insuring work will not be on Sunday or disrupt access to church and where to locate information on website. He was informed that the church would receive assessment and that work would be coordinated to not interfere with church activities.

28 Grant Street – Matt Kremer – requested consideration of 60/40 assessment split for the area of Grant Street from US 27 to Woodfill Ave. due to school traffic. Mr. Dill explained that although the school reconstruction provided internal traffic loop, others do find their own path in

and around schools for student pick-up. He added that street classifications dictate the 60/40 split so council would need to revise the classification to consider Grant Street. Mr. Bowman stated they would take it under advisement in committee.

41 Grant Street- Vickie Ellis – reiterated the request to consider 60/40 for Grant Street due to proximity to school and number of houses served further in subdivision. She also asked how streets are chosen to be in the program. Mr. Twehues explained the process that includes review of the City’s “Comprehensive Pavement Rating Conditions” ranking of streets, overall need for maintenance, and “grouping” of streets for bid advantage. Mrs. Ellis also indicated that her husband has specific needs due to health issues and wants to coordinate work to insure continued access. Mr. Dill encouraged her to contact him to arrange for access during construction to accommodate their specific needs.

31 Sherman Ave. –Jay Spencer – asked if special assessment is tax –deductible. Mr. Dill indicated that he did not believe so, however, individuals should consult their personal tax advisor to verify status of possible deductions. Mr. Spencer also questioned if other methods could be considered to fund program and if there is relief for residents on fixed income. Mr. Bowman offered that funding options are an item of discussion for council and there may be adjustments to the program in the future.

15 Sherman Ave. – Georgiann Mullins - Noted that she experiences ponding of water in front of her driveway since a neighbor did a construction project and asked if this project would eliminate that condition. She also questioned what general taxes paid for if they are paying assessment for streets. Mr. Twehues indicated that her location could be inspected and Mr. Dill responded to the issue of tax benefits/services provided by the city.

118 Sherman Ave. – Phyllis Miller – Mrs. Miller read a letter she had sent to council & staff relating to questions about equitability when they are faced with a large assessment because they have a corner lot. She acknowledged that the council members and staff have responded in advance of the public hearing to provide clarity on how the statute limits the assessment process. She did ask why the residents were not notified earlier in the process and also why other options for funding are not in place such as increase in franchise fees. Mr. Dill explained that the city notification to residents follows statute and that the public hearing is the beginning part of considering a proposed project so resident input begins at that point; council will still have to act in order to proceed with the project. Mrs. Miller also asked if the council is still considering a change in franchise fees to fund the program. It was explained that any change in policy that may be considered by this council could not affect a program considered this year. She then requested that the program be suspended for this year.

12 Sheridan Ave – Keith Geiman- asked if trees that are affecting sidewalks will be removed, whether owners could pay for additional sidewalk work and what type of materials are required for downspout adjustments. It was explained that the tree commission will evaluate tree removals in advance of the program, additional sidewalk work is not available to residents based on the inability of city crews to perform additional work in timeline for the project completion and owners do not have to obtain pipe materials because the city will make all downspout adjustments within the right-of-way.

21 Fairview Place – Grant Girard – mentioned that the numerous utility cuts have adversely impacted streets and utility companies should be accountable for costs. Mr. Barbian explained that there is a street cut permit requirement with associated fees to utility companies. Mr. Girard also requested that the manhole risers be properly installed by utility companies, how drainage would be addressed on the street and what measures could be taken to limit the volume

of “turn-around” that occurs on their little street. Mr. Twehues offered an option of considering reduction of the size of the cul-de-sac; it was agreed that it should be explored further.

There being no further business before the committee, the public hearing was closed at approximately 8:15 p.m.