

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
MARCH 21, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.
2017 STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM**

The Public Hearing for the 2017 Street Resurfacing Program was opened at 7:00 p.m. Members of the Public Works Committee of Council in attendance were: Ken Bowman, Jeff Bezold, and John Slawter. Staff members in attendance were: Ron Dill, City Administrative Officer, Kevin Barbian, Director of General Services/Zoning Administrator, and Frank Twehues and Rob Hans of CT Engineering.

Ken Bowman read a brief description and summary of the project and then introduced the members of the Public Works Committee and staff in attendance. Mr. Bowman indicated that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to solicit comments from affected property owners on the following streets: Custis Avenue, Diana Court, Lafayette Court, Lilac Lane, Highview Drive, and Washington Avenue.

Mr. Bowman then introduced Frank Twehues to briefly summarize the project design.

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Mr. Bowman then asked City Administrative Officer, Ron Dill to discuss the funding plans for the project.

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Mr. Bowman then called for public comment:

1. David Wormald was present representing his mother, Mary Lou Schoupe that lives at 45 Custis. Mr. Wormald asked when the city replaces the existing curb with rolled curb, are they going to cut through the driveway aprons and how will it transition? If the apron is in good condition, they will leave it and if not, it will need to be replaced. He noted that the driveway is higher than the asphalt and wanted to know whose responsibility it would be to replace the apron. The city will coordinate with the homeowners for apron replacement, but ultimately will be the responsibility of the homeowner to pay the cost of replacement.
2. Judy Frederick of 26 Custis asked about the drainage system mentioned on the left going down Custis. Ms. Frederick gets ice patches in front of her driveway, and asked if this water will be re-routed? Ron noted that the intention is to place a pipe that will run under the sidewalk or street and will be connected into the drainage system, which will be tied into a catch basin on the street.
3. Ron Dill addressed city trees between the sidewalk and the curb. If city trees create conflicts, they will have to be removed as part of the resurfacing process. This will be discussed with the property owner first. The Fort Thomas Tree Commission has a program that will allow you to look into planting a tree in your front yard and this information will be mailed out as part of this program.

4. Taylor McDonald of 33 Washington Ave. was present and asked what the primary reason is to widen the block on Washington? Frank Twehues indicated that this will provide greater room for cars to get around each other on Washington. Mr. Twehues said that the city has received a lot of complaints that cars are driving over the curbs. The street will have 4" vertical curbs installed to limit the vehicles to stay on the pavement. Mr. McDonald is also concerned about traffic coming up Joyce that is regularly running stop signs. He asked about the consideration of installing speed humps. Ron Dill indicated that the city has a policy to deal with traffic calming devices. We can do a speed study on the street and there is a threshold that would address that need if it is a factor. There is also concern that the sidewalk is going to be right up at their front door. Frank Twehues noted that the back of the sidewalk will stay in the same location.
5. Dwight Wendling owns rental property on Washington. Mr. Wendling asked who owns and maintains the sanitary lines on Custis. Ron Dill noted that the city owns the catch basins and that residents are not picking up the cost for their repair. Mr. Wendling asked about the cost of resurfacing and since Custis is getting more work done to it, why was Washington a higher price. Mr. Dill indicated that the residents will only be charged for the cost of resurfacing. The city is talking to Duke Energy about relocating or removing street lights as part of the project. Mr. Wendling noted that it would make more sense to remove the island where the parked cars are on the East side of the street and leave the curb the way it is on the West side of the street. This will maintain safety to the children. Mr. Wendling is asking for the city to reconsider widening this section of Washington. Mr. Dill noted that final action will take place at a city council meeting.
6. Kay Stringer of 30 Washington addressed the committee. Ms. Stringer's handicapped father will be moving in with her and asked if the roads will be torn up for weeks and if they will have access to their driveway and the sidewalk. Mr. Twehues indicated that during construction, the contractors have to maintain traffic through the area. If curb and sidewalk are being torn up, the city will work with the residents on installation of temporary handicap ramps and access to driveways.
7. David Dickerson of 34 Washington addressed the committee. Mr. Dickerson asked why they chose Washington to resurface. He asked if the city could charge the residents of Southgate and Newport that use the street? He noted that hundreds of cars use Washington as a cut through in the mornings and evenings and ignore the stop signs. Mr. Twehues indicated that this is a concern every year and within the city limits KRS reads that the adjoining property owners are assessed. Mr. Dickerson then indicated that speed humps should be installed because of the speeding issue and people running stop signs.
8. Doug Roell from 6 Lilac addressed the committee. Mr. Roell is happy that the city has chosen Lilac to resurface. He has concerns on storm water issues. There is a lot of water that comes off of Newman Ave. It comes around the bend and flows into Lilac. This causes icing issue in the winter and in the spring it brings a lot of debris onto the street. Mr. Roell would like to see something done to control this. He is glad that the utility companies will be notified before they resurface and they can get work done if needed prior. Mr. Roell has very minimal concerns about the project but would like to see the storm water addressed.
9. Joanne Rice at 21 Lilac addressed the committee. Mrs. Rice noted that there is a constant pot hole on Lilac because of the water. Ms. Rice asked that we put an unmarked police

car on Lilac because people speed up the street since the new shopping center in Newport has been constructed.

10. John Pompillio of 35 Highview addressed the committee. He indicated that he would hate to see one of the utilities cut in front of his house after the resurfacing. He said that there is a lot of speeding on the street and also noted the pot hole that is always there due to the water pulling at the top of the street.
11. Danielle Whitterstater of 34 Highview Drive addressed the committee. She indicated that cars do fly up and down Highview. She also asked who sets the interest rate for the Street Resurfacing Program loans and that 8% is high. Mr. Bowman noted that the city will likely have the Finance committee look into adjusting the interest rates.
12. Steve Meyers of 22 Highview Drive asked if tax exempt properties get assessed. Mr. Dill indicated that exempt properties do get assessed. Mr. Meyers has issue with how the program is funded. In his opinion a better way of charging residents would be to look at the values of the properties and divide it up that way or to take all of the properties in Fort Thomas and increase the tax rate very minimally for residents, to increase the revenue for streets. Mr. Bowman suggested that Mr. Meyers come to the council meeting and bring up his ideas to the Finance Committee. Ron Dill noted that as long as there is an assessment, the city has to follow the KRS statute and city council cannot change that.
13. Jim Seibert at 111 Highview Drive thanked the committee for resurfacing the street and that it really needs it. He asked if you can contract with the contractor to re-pour the driveway. Ron Dill indicated that because it is a concrete driveway, the contractor will not get involved in that. Mr. Seibert also asked that the city consider deer crossing signs for the street, there are many deer back in that area.
14. Jack Coffman of 15 Highview Drive addressed the committee. In the front of his house there is a catch basin that pools water when it rains. This needs to be addressed because of the freezing and thawing process. Mr. Coffman indicated that there needs to be a catch basin in front of his driveway. Frank Twehues noted that this is the good thing about having this meeting because we do not know these things are going on, and it's good to get this input from the residents.

City crews will start work on sidewalks and curbs in early spring and the street resurfacing will occur in September or early October.

15. JoAnn Rice of 21 Lilac indicated that between 17 and 13 Lilac there is a catch basin and there is a 2" opening at the drain and it is not an adequate opening to catch the water. Ron Dill noted that the drains will be evaluated before the resurfacing.
16. Mike Wendling addressed the committee again. On Washington Ave, there are no sewer drainage basins. Mr. Wendling thinks that is part of the reason that Custis is having water issues. All the water from Washington is running down onto Custis. Mr. Wendling compared Fischer Lane with Washington and Fischer Lane has 6 catch basins. Mr. Bowman noted that the committee should set up an onsite meeting to discuss this. City crews will be replacing the sidewalks.
17. Steve Meyers of 22 Highview also indicated that he has sewer and water easements that run through his yard. He noted that the sewer on his side of the street is quite a bit higher

than it should be. The street dips because of the long distance of the street. He noted that the storm sewer across the street is much too low and it collects quite a bit of water in front of it. Mr. Meyers also asked how to find the statutes on the street resurfacing. The City will get him a copy of this.

With no further comment from the audience, Mr. Bowman thanked everyone in attendance for their comments and input and indicated that the Public Works Committee will be reporting to city council at their meeting on April 17, 2017. At that time, an ordinance will be prepared indicating the city's intent to proceed with the project.

The public hearing for the 2017 Street Resurfacing Project was closed at 7:40 p.m.

Signed:

Ken Bowman, Chairman of Public Works Committee

Jeff Bezold, Public Works Committee

John Slawter, Public Works Committee

Attest:

Melissa K. Kelly, City Clerk