

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, August 2, 2016
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present

Paul Skrede, Public Works Foreman John Menzel, Police Chief Cory Johnson, Teresa Pendleton and City Administrator Dana Young

Crosswalk Requests on Vine Hill Road (Deborah Brandt)

The Committee reviewed a request from Deborah Brandt (4750 Maple Chase Drive) to install pedestrian crosswalks at Vine Hill Road & Excelsior Blvd, Vine Hill Road & Rosedale Avenue, and Vine Hill Road and Cottagewood Road. The Committee reviewed the site drawings provided by Ms. Brandt.

Police Chief Cory Johnson stated that he had a number of objections to the installation of crosswalks at these locations. First, there is not sufficient pedestrian traffic at these locations to justify crosswalks. Second, these are not normal locations where people would expect to find and stop for pedestrian crosswalks. Third, the volume of traffic at these locations is very high. And fourth, the sightlines and street grades at these locations are very poor. He stated that pedestrians tend to have a false sense of security when accessing a crosswalk and he felt that crosswalks at these locations would lead to injuries and accidents. He stated that he could not support crosswalks at these locations.

Paul Skrede stated that he agreed with the Chief's assessment. He stated that Excelsior Blvd is especially dangerous due to driver's desperation in trying to make the traffic light to cross Hwy 7. He stated that, as an alternative solution to making pedestrian or bike traffic safer along Vine Hill Road, he will be meeting with the street contractor to have Vine Hill repainted such that there is as much space possible for pedestrian or bicyclists outside the driving lanes.

Teresa Pendleton agreed that crosswalks at these locations would lead to fender benders or worse.

Condition of Property at 5000 Highcrest Drive

Dana Young stated that a letter was sent to the property owners at 5000 Highcrest Drive requesting a number of improvements to their property that were in violation of the City's nuisance provisions. He stated that the property owners had until July 18th to make these improvements and the improvements were completed by July 15th.

Paul Skrede recommended that a letter be sent to the property owners thanking them for their efforts.

Chief Johnson recommended that an update be provided to the individuals complaining about the condition of their property.

Discuss Proposed Chain Saw Ordinance

The Commission reviewed a proposed that was intended to curb excessive chain saw use in certain areas of the City, most notably in Shavers Lake. The ordinance reads as follows:

(aa) Maintenance equipment noise at any time other than the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on weekdays and 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends and Holidays. Maintenance equipment shall include, but not be limited to lawn mowers, ~~chain saws~~, leaf blowers and other similar types of equipment. However, equipment used during the removal of snow and generators used during power outages or other emergencies shall not be considered as maintenance equipment under this subsection.

(ee) Chain saws may only be used to assist with the removal and/or maintenance of trees and brush found on a homeowner's property. Unprocessed wood may not be imported into the city or from property to property within the city for the purpose of using a chain saw to cut the unprocessed wood into smaller pieces. The stacking of wood shall not exceed a total combined size of four feet wide, by twenty feet long, by five feet high on any property within the city unless approval is granted by the Deephaven Chief of Police.

Dana Young stated that he and Chief Johnson discussed the potential ordinance with Mark Weber, who voiced his concern that the proposed ordinance would limit the size of his woodpile and impact his ability to find the appropriate type of wood for his lathe operation. Dana Young informed Mr. Weber that the City Council will review this ordinance on August 16th.

Other

Paul Skrede stated that he received a complaint regarding the safety of the crosswalk crossing Minnetonka Blvd to the Vine Hill Bridge. He suggested installing more fill material along Minnetonka Blvd in order to widen the pedestrian walkway and to potentially install a split rail fence to separate the turn lane from the turn lane.

The Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned on a motion by John Menzel. Seconded by Teresa Pendleton. Motion carried 5-0.

Update Northome Bridge Project

Dana Young stated that there was nothing new to report on the Northome Bridge Project.

Vine Hill Road Street Project

Discussion was held regarding the need to install berms on Vine Hill, Harper Road and the Vine Street cul-de-sac to replace the berms that had been removed during the street reconstruction. Dana Young stated that the bid included 300 L.F. of berm installation but there is another 1,000 L.F. of berms that are needed to replace those that had been removed.

John Menzel stated that the berms need to be replaced and he would prefer that the berms be installed by the contractor rather than his crew.

The Committee authorized installation of an additional 1,000 L.F. of berms on Vine Hill, Harper Road, and the Vine Street cul-de-sac at an estimated cost of \$7,700 on a motion by Dana Young. Seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 3-0.

Paul Skrede stated that Vine Hill will be striped tomorrow and he planned on meeting with Chief Johnson and Inspector Art Taylor to ensure that the street was stripped down the middle in order to provide as wide an area off the driving surface as possible for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Further discussion was held on determining the quantity of additional and replacement berms that are needed on those streets to be milled and overlaid well in advance of finalizing the project specifications so that a more accurate estimate of additional and replacement berms can be included in the bid.

Discussion was also held on the need to formalize a traffic control plans well in advance of the street resurfacing in order to inform residents of potential traffic flow during construction.

Storm Water Improvements

The Committee formalized a potential list of storm water improvement projects for the short and long term. Additional work will be needed in providing cost estimates for the 2017 Storm Water Budget.

Other

There were no other discussion items.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety & Public Works Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2016.