

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
August 6, 2015  
3:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Leonard on August 6, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room, 1515 Willow Lane, Philomath.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMITTEE:** Jason Leonard, Doug Edmonds. Eric Niemann-absent

**TREE ADVISORY BOARD:** Jason Leonard, Doug Edmonds. Eric Niemann-absent

**STAFF:** Kevin Fear, Public Works Director; Garry Black, Public Works Operations Supervisor, and Lige Weedman City Arborist

**GUESTS:** Mel and Karen Whittier

**MINUTES:**

Councilor Edmonds moved, Councilor Leonard second, to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2015, meeting as presented. Motion APPROVED 2-0.

**TREE BOARD BUSINESS:**

1) Tree removal 100 block of South 8th Street-(moved to second point of business to accommodate the Whittiers)

Mr. Black gave the committee the background on the trees in question. He explained that they are blocking the sidewalk and have raised and broken the sidewalk in several places. Councilor Edmonds asked about the tree type. Mr. Weedman stated that it is a Lombardi Poplar, that grow very quickly and die out rapidly causing them to become hazardous. The tree is the wrong type of tree for its location. The tree was not one that was intentionally planted in that location.

Councilor Leonard moved to remove the trees, Councilor Edmonds seconded. Motion APPROVED 2-0.

2) Discussion and decision on tree at 307 North 10th Street (tree is at corner of 10th and Pioneer)

Mr. Black provided the background of the tree(s) at 10th and Pioneer. The issue that the Whittiers are having is that the tree limbs are blocking the signal to their satellite dish when the wind blows. Mr. Black wished to bring the issue to the Tree Committee for a decision as he was concerned with setting a precedent about trimming city owned trees for satellite dishes, scenic views, etc.

Mr. Weedman gave different options for the trees which included trimming branches up for signal clarity, trimming branches clear back to the trunk of the tree, or removing the tree.

Councilor Edmonds asked about moving the dish to a different location. Mr. Whittier said that Dish Network stated it could not move the dish for better reception. Mrs. Whittier stated the water meter was next to the trunk. Mr. Black stated that the trees also had caused some sewer problems years earlier.

Councilor Edmonds asked if roots would stop causing problems with lifting the sidewalk and clogging the sewer. Mr. Weedman stated that the roots would keep growing, but there are other options to deal with the roots.

Mr. Whittier explained that there are 3 satellites that are used for TV reception. They have trouble receiving the satellite with high definition when the wind blows as it is blowing the branch into the path of the satellite.

Mr. Fear asked what solution the Whittier's were looking for. Mr. Whittier would like the tree trimmed, Mrs. Whittier would like the tree removed. Mr. Fear asked Mr. Weedman if removal of the tree would affect the wind on the other trees. He stated it can change the whole wind pattern in the area for a few blocks. The committee decided to discuss it later. Mr. & Mrs. Whittier left.

The committee discussed the fact that the trees had been there many years before the satellite dish and that there were several different options to look at before trimming the trees.

Mr. Weedman stated that there is a method to "de-sail" the trees which can help the trees withstand higher winds and help with the health of the trees.

The committee decided to have Mr. Black contact the Whittiers and see if there are other options available such as moving the dish, raising the dish, using a different provider for TV service, etc. Mr. Black will also have repairs to the sidewalk made.

3) Other business – None.

### **PUBLIC WORKS BUSINESS:**

1) Benton View Drive Local Improvement District (LID) discussion

Mr. Fear explained the reasoning for the LID. City Municipal Code requires that homes within the city be hooked to the city sewer system if it is available within a reasonable distance. Two homes have sewer service right next door to them. If they were required to install sewer service this would lead to each adjoining home to be within limits to hook up to city sewer. This would lead to higher costs to homeowners and several years of construction as each home was required to hook up. Mr. Fear also stated he was unsure as to why these homes were not required to hook up at the time the sewer became available. Councilor Leonard asked if there were any failing septic tanks at this time. Mr. Fear stated that he had not heard of any, but the potential was there and being on a hill, it could affect several homes if one were to fail.

The question of why this issue is being discussed at this time was raised. Mr. Fear stated that there was no support in earlier years to require the hook ups due to the downturn in the economy and that it could be a very unpopular decision due to the cost to the homeowners. Councilor Leonard and Councilor Edmonds voiced concern with the costs to the homeowners and requiring the homeowners to hook up if there have been no problems and most of the septic systems are approximately 30 years old. Mr. Fear explained that sooner or later there will be a failure and cause a public health hazard.

It was unknown if the City would bear any responsibility for damage caused by a failed system since it knew of the septic systems and did not require them to be hooked up.

Mr. Fear stated that in a non-health hazard condition, the homeowners have a vote at a public hearing to voice concerns and reject the project.

Both Councilors liked the idea of the homeowners making the decision for an LID.

**MOTION:** Councilor Leonard moved, Councilor Edmonds second, to forward a recommendation to the City Council for consideration of an LID to extend sewer service to the homes on Benton View Drive currently on septic systems and to install curb, gutter and sidewalks on Benton View Drive. Motion APPROVED 2-0 (Yes: Leonard and Edmonds; Niemann absent).

2) Other business:

None

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Recorded by: Kevin Fear, Public Works Director