

# PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

July 6, 2017

5:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. at City Hal Council Chambers, 980 Applegate Street, Philomath, Oregon, by Public Works Committee Chair Eric Niemann.

## ROLL CALL:

City Councilors Eric Niemann and Doug Edmonds and Mayor Rocky Sloan (*arrived 5:20 p.m.*)  
Staff: Public Works Director Kevin Fear, Operations Supervisor Garry Black, and City Recorder Ruth Post.

## MINUTES:

Chair Niemann tabled the May 4, 2017, minutes to be reviewed at the next Public Works meeting.

## TREE BOARD BUSINESS:

**Informational briefing on hazardous tree removal at 144 N 7th Street** – Mr. Black reviewed the dead 120-foot fir tree that was removed last week. He stated the tree next to it is healthy. It cost \$2,950 to remove the tree and \$300 for stump grinding. The wood went to PYAC for salvage. He stated the stump end was probably 28 inches but had no estimate of age. Mr. Black had a survey performed to ensure it was a City tree located in the right of way before proceeding with removal. There was further discussion about the process of the tree removal.

Chair Niemann questioned if there are any other trees of concern to Public Works. Mr. Black stated there are some cedar trees at 8th and Pioneer Streets that may be at issue. One is a City tree and one is on private property. The private tree has some type of fungus and there is concern it will pass to the City-owned tree. He added that there are some poplars to come down next Wednesday on Newton Creek. There was discussion about maintenance on Newton Creek Park. Councilor Edmonds stated one of the bike path lights on Hunsaker Bike Path is leaning awkwardly. Mr. Black agreed to follow up on it.

**Other Business** – None.

Tree Board meeting closed at 5:09 p.m.

## PUBLIC WORKS BUSINESS:

**Review of request for an Encroachment Permit to build a fence in a Public Utility Easement at 245 and 251 Neabeack Hill Drive** – Mr. Fear stated that Joseph and Kevin Sullivan are requesting permission to build fences in the public utility easement around their lots located between Neabeack Hill Drive and the bike path to the north. He stated a PUE is an easement that is used by other utilities. He contacted the other area utility companies to give them an opportunity to comment. Pioneer Telephone has a conduit in the area but has no issues with allowing fencing. Pacific Power has a guy wire in the vicinity and requested that area be fenced out with a 5 foot by 5 foot area.

Joseph Sullivan, 251 Neabeack Hill Drive, Philomath, OR – Mr. Sullivan answered questions regarding the proposed fence construction. Councilor Edmonds encouraged them to call for utility line locates prior to digging post holes.

*(Mayor Sloan arrived at 5:20 p.m.)*

**MOTION:** Councilor Niemann moved to approve the encroachment permits with the additional condition of approval from Pacific Power for the 5x5 fence out on 251 Neabeack Hill Drive. Councilor Edmonds second. Motion APPROVED 3-0 (Yes: Edmonds, Sloan, Niemann; No: None).

**Jeff Cohen, President of Neabeack Hill Homeowners Association, to follow up on the discussion of the possible donation of green way area between Reservoir Park and Neabeack Hill --**

Jeff Cohen, Philomath, OR – In follow-up to the May 4 meeting discussion, Mr. Cohen stated he wasn't able to come up with any record related to the intent by the original developer to donate Tracts A and B to the City for park land.

Mayor Sloan stated he had concerns about accepting undeveloped property due to recent budget cuts to the parks maintenance budget. He noted liability concerns for maintenance at a time when the budget has been cut. He suggested it could possibly be revisited if the HOA did some development to reduce future maintenance requirements or if the City's budget improved to allow for more parks maintenance. Mr. Cohen questioned if the City would want to partner with the HOA on some of that development. Councilor Niemann concurred with Mayor Sloan's concerns regarding budget. Councilor Edmonds had concerns about the terrain and questioned if there was any infrastructure value. Mr. Fear stated he didn't believe there was. Councilor Niemann stated he was grateful that the HOA had considered the offer but the timing of the offer doesn't coordinate well with the current budget constraints. Mr. Cohen confirmed that this was in reference to both Tracts "A" and "B". There was discussion about the Park Master Plan reference to the extension of a bike path through this area and the possible need for revision of that project list.

**Request by Michael Chambers for traffic calming speed bump on Southwood Drive** – Mr. Fear stated he had received a call regarding speed concerns on Southwood Drive. He noted that the request for a speed bump on North 9th Street (see next agenda item) was on the County road and the County declined to consider it. Mayor Sloan stated he frequently receives calls with the same complaint. There was discussion about the impact of allowing one speed bump resulting in requests for more. Mr. Black stated the calming devices would cause an issue for the street sweeper. Mayor Sloan suggested that the Police Department's speed trailer is available for use and requested that Public Works refer the homeowners to Chief Rueben. There was discussion about more use of signage, including the addition of 25 mph signs, and whether that would be effective or cause more sign pollution. Councilor Edmonds was concerned about the bigger issues on Southwood and South 30th with regard to parking, bike lanes, and congestion. There was discussion about receiving feedback from the Police Department. Councilor Edmonds had concerns about the safety issues related to parking on South 30th particularly. There was discussion and agreement about forwarding the safety issues to the Police Committee for follow-up.

**Request for traffic calming speed bump on North 9th Street** – Location referenced is on the County road. No further action to be taken on this request.

**Discussion regarding Nonstandard Discharge Strength users** – Mr. Fear described a new business use that will have a minimal volume of discharge but a high level of non-standard sewer discharge. He stated the Council could set a rate for non-standard discharge. He stated

that the Finance Director recommended a fee based on the amount of non-standard excess load multiplied by the standard sewer unit rate. There was discussion about making a recommendation to the City Council for a rate to charge. There was discussion about monitoring requirements the City of Corvallis uses, including pre-treatment options. There was discussion about establishing a permit for the monitoring of the non-standard discharge. Ms. Post reminded the Committee that failure to meet any Public Works condition of approval for monitoring can be enforced by terminating water service.

**MOTION:** Mayor Sloan moved, Councilor Edmonds second, to recommend the City Council set a rate for non-standard sewer discharge at an amount multiplying the excess load times the standard rate. Motion APPROVED 3-0 (Yes: Edmonds, Niemann, Sloan; No: None.).

**Other Business** – None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Ruth Post, MMC, City Recorder.