

**STREETS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**OF FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

Municipal Council of the City of Vermilion  
Municipal Complex, 685 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

**In Attendance:**                    **Vermilion City Council:**  
*Steve Herron, President of Council; Monica Stark, Council at Large; John Gabriel, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five.*

**Administration:**  
*Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Chris Hartung, Police Chief; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director.*

**Call to Order:**                    Frank Loucka, Chairman, RESOLVED THAT this Streets, Buildings, & Grounds Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

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**TOPIC ONE:                    Street Program 2018 (Cost Estimates)**

City Engineer, Chris Howard reported that upon review of the Main Street Resurfacing project, the former administration received a price for a 3" mill and fill from Liberty Avenue to Main Street Beach and the cost with a 10 percent contingency is \$205,000. S. Holovacs asked if curb/gutters were included in the cost and C. Howard said there are no curb/gutters and the project will match the existing.

C. Howard reported on Hollyview Drive Reconstruction – Phase I which is a part of the OPWC project the city received grant money for. This project encompasses west of Sanford Street to the west edge of Forestview Drive; approximately 1,480 feet. This project is a complete tear-out with an undercut, underdrains, and new curb/gutters with asphalt pavement. The construction cost with a 10 percent contingency is \$585,000. This is an estimate with taking 15" of base out. He said council may want to consider soil borings. M. Stark said in reviewing the OPWC application for financial assistance, would the city take the \$412,500 of the grant from the \$585,000 total. C. Howard said the entire project cost was \$701,916.00 and then you add the design and construction administration costs. M. Stark asked what the city's portion would be and C. Howard said the grant was for \$275,000, so the city's portion would be \$585,000. Mayor Forthofer said the OPWC did not offer a loan to go to the balance of the costs. Loans were applied for but not granted, but it doesn't mean they can't get a loan somewhere else.

S. Holovacs said he would like to see soil borings done because when they did Sanford they did 18" and used geo grid which factored in extra costs. He doesn't know what the cost would be based on 3-5" if they went to 15" or more, or 3" with geo grid, but they need to realize it's not free and they could be looking at a least \$100,000, so they need to consider the extra costs as it's very important to this whole situation. C. Howard said if they have three borings they are probably looking at \$5,000 - \$6,000 per report which is money well spent. F. Loucka asked if council needs to make a motion to proceed with the soil borings and G. Fisher said council needed to review the budget prior and noted this project wouldn't be done until 2019, and they have until June of 2019 to make that

determination. S. Holovacs said they need to look at the road levy budget because they are down to \$250,000 a year and they will be with no money for how many years. He wants Hollyview done, but they need to make sure they can continue to do streets for the city.

**TOPIC TWO:            Traffic Signal Project (Cost Estimates on Bollards)**

T. Valerius reported that he along with the inspection engineer visited each intersection where the new traffic light poles are installed. They identified nine areas where bollards should be placed. They include three bollards at the intersection of Liberty/W. River/Sandusky Street. Two should be placed in the parking lot to protect the light pole from people backing out of the Vermilion Deli parking area; one on the northeast corner of Sandusky Street and Liberty because of the trailered boats that travel the area. Another location is at the light pole in front of Dairy Dock as it's very close to the street; Liberty/Vermilion Road intersection to protect the light pole on the north side as the pole was located very close to the road because of a storm sewer that ran through there, also another by the Linwood light and then three bollards at Liberty and South Shore Plaza; two light poles on either side of the entrance to the shopping center, and one bollard across the street on the north side protecting westbound traffic from the control panel that is sitting close to the street. The costs for nine bollards total \$6,649.20. However, the city was able to get ODOT to pay 80 percent of the cost since its part of the project and safety, so the city would be responsible for \$1,329.84 from the street permissive use fund for a change order. He asked council to prepare legislation for this change order.

**S. Holovacs MOVED**; F. Loucka seconded to have legislation prepared for Change Order Number One for the Traffic Signal project in the amount of \$1,329.84. Discussion: B. Holmes asked if the bollards will have any type of reflection and T. Valerius said it will be painted yellow and reflective tape will be put on them. M. Stark said she has been asked by several residents about the poles that the bollards will protect and wondered if the poles in the area referred to as the "Bridge to Bridge" project will be painted black like the ones in downtown. G. Fisher noted this was talked about last year and they would not because of the price difference. M. Stark said unfortunately it separates the area and wished the city could have kept them all the same. She asked if they could be painted and T. Valerius said they could but then there is a maintenance factor. M. Stark said she also received a lot of complaints about the silver boxes and said they have a lot of these in San Diego and artists have come in and painted them to make the community look nicer. S. Herron said maybe the art students could take this on as a project. Roll Call Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**TOPIC THREE:            Fulper's Lot**

J. Gabriel asked what the city's intent is with the Fulper's Lot. He doesn't want to see another park since they have three parks in the area. Mayor Forthofer said there was a "For Sale" sign in the lot over the weekend and didn't know who put it there because it's not for sale. He reported on January 11, Mannik and Smith informed him that they passed the ground safety inspection with the EPA. They had to remove some wells from analysis and it was all replaced with good soil and testing is clear. He said the previous

administration didn't have a good picture with what to do with the lot either, so for the time being it is what it is. He has been talking with people around town who would like to invest in opportunities in town, along with Main Street, the Chamber of Commerce, and merchants, and what seems to be needed is possibly a multi-use building with the lower level being retail and the upper being residential. The city doesn't want to build this but they would entertain proposals for some ideas on how to accomplish this. In the meantime, they always have available parking, so right now his plan is to keep it as parking during Third Thursday's and those events only, and keep looking for an investor who would be willing to add to their downtown.

J. Gabriel said he would be okay with turning the lot into parking for the festivals that are growing bigger and bigger, or getting rid of it. But to turn it into another park he wouldn't be in favor. He said the city recently acquired parking but it's not known by people coming in as it's not easily visible to visitors. Mayor Forthofer agreed they don't want another park in the area and felt they do need to make the people aware that the Grand Division Parking Lot is there with good signage stating that parking is free.

M. Stark definitely supported the idea of a parking lot because the city is growing and people are always complaining about parking and people blocking driveways. She thought the city had plenty of empty buildings that people can bring their businesses to that they need to fill up before building more. Mayor Forthofer said as far as empty buildings in the downtown they are filled at 100 percent capacity, but east into the Brownfield zone it has a lot of empty buildings. M. Stark said it's great they have so many downtown buildings that are filled to capacity, but they definitely need to focus on some of the city's other areas. She said the parking lot the city recently acquired is wonderful to have but they still need to add more.

Chairman Frank Loucka adjourned the meeting after no further discussion came before the committee.

Next meeting: March 12, 2018

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk

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