

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
2/12/25

Meeting called to order by DelMain at 9:03 AM

Present: Ted Dougherty, Liam DelMain, Nancy Pearson, Tom Bogaard

Absent: Diane Fizell, BJ Havlik

City Employees: Joel Weber, Jacob Dickey

Public: Vidanus Tumas

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No Public Comments

1. Old Business
 - a. Manypenny update: tri-state utilities is the contractor and is all set to go. Tentative start date is June 1st, hoping for August 1st completion.
 - b. Applied for storm relief funding to help with costs on Washington Ave washout, may not hear back about that until this summer or the fall
2. Harbors Edge Easement
 - a. Mike Rasmus had his property surveyed, and discovered that there is some encroachment on the city right of way. He is looking to make this right somehow. There are two main options, either writing up a lease agreement between them and the city, or writing up an easement that is granted to the property. Discussion ensued, it was decided to table the decision and seek more information about the options, details etc.
3. Tumas Vacate Alley Request
 - a. The Tumas' have an old property and face some challenges with how the house is placed in relation to the platted alley. They would like to build a garage where the alley right of way is. This is a longstanding issue that has come before the council in the past. Discussion ensued on what reasons there are to grant this request, including the reality that the ravine to the north of block 101 means that the alley could never go anywhere. City wants to retain the ability to expand utilities into the block if needed in the future. Important to document reasoning so as not to set broad precedents.

Motion by Bogaard that the public works committee approve that the city vacate the alley on block 101 with the exception of use for utilities such as water and sewer. All were in favor, motion passed.

4. Vacant lots, infrastructure & utilities discussion

- a. Joel has been getting lots of calls, property owners in undeveloped sections of the city wondering about developing their lots. These undeveloped sections of the city (North of Rice Ave & West of N 6th St, as well as North of Old Military Rd & West of S 11th St) face particular challenges with access to utilities, which have potential high costs that have dissuaded development. It is not entirely clear how to navigate this. The city needs to start taking these questions seriously, and begin exploring how it will facilitate development in these zones. Discussion has started, and will continue.
5. Utility Operator Report
 - a. Wi-fi was installed at the well houses for new video security in the buildings
6. Set Next Meeting
 - a. Next meeting will be 9am on March 12th.

Meeting adjourned.