



**Public Works Committee Meeting
February 10, 2016**

Attendees Present:

Mayor Boudreau

Council Members: Hudson, Hulst, Lindquist, Molenaar, Quam, Ragan

Staff Members: Bell, B. Chesterfield, Dodd, Hari, Huschka, Hyde, Kleppe, Love, Rogerson, Weppler, Worley

Other: Special Council Scott Snyder

1. Approval of Public Works Committee Minutes:

Councilmember Lindquist moved to approve the minutes from January 13, 2015; Seconded by Councilmember Molenaar; Carried by all.

2. Program Coordination Division – *Blaine Chesterfield*

a) Washington Conservation Corp Update:

The Washington Conservation Corp has worked on vegetation control for 6 drainage facilities and is currently working in Little Mountain Addition near S 27th Street and Rainbolt Place. Work took place over two weeks in January with another two weeks scheduled in February. Facilities being worked on include Trumpeter, Rosewood (2 Facilities), Bakerview, Little Mountain Addition, and Eastgate.

b) Notice of 2016 Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Presentation:

The City would like to invite the public to a presentation of the City's 2016 Stormwater Management Program on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, during the Public Works Committee meeting at 6:00 pm. This presentation is a requirement of the NPDES Municipal Permit. The presentation will be advertised in the newspaper, TV10, and the website. Additionally, Councilmember Quam will announce the upcoming meeting at tonight's City Council session.

3. Project Updates – *Mike Love*

a) Downtown Riverwalk Restroom Project update:

Axthelm Construction is progressing with the construction of the new bathroom and retail space adjacent to the plaza. The brickwork and exterior stucco is complete, and the interior sheet rock and heating system installed. Axthelm Construction will continue with wall covering, interior trim, and bathroom fixtures. The project is on schedule to be complete in early March.

b) Section and Laventure Intersection Improvement Project Design:

Staff discussed revising the consultant agreement for the design of a traffic signal to be installed at the intersection of Laventure and Section Street. Staff has met with the Mount Vernon School District and they support installation of a traffic signal. Funding was originally committed for design of a compact roundabout. The original design contract was \$58,974.96, of which \$38,000 has been spent to date. Staff recommends preparation of the design and applying for a Transportation Improvement Board grant in August to fund construction.

c) MVPD Dog Kennel Project:

Danneko Construction continues to make progress on the new dog kennel anticipating completion in the next few weeks. Remaining work includes installing the gate and dog kennel fencing, painting the concrete block wall, minor repairs to the drain gutter, and the concrete slab in front of the gate.

4. Public Works Director Comments – *Esco Bell*

a) Fixing Manhole Lids and Utility Box Covers:

City staff is making improvements to their techniques for fixing manhole lids and increasing efforts to repair more of them. In 2013 staff put out a \$50,000 contract to repair 25 of the worst ones in the city; staff will conduct a similar project again. Staff has compiled a list of lids in need of repair that are being prioritized for future fixing. Additionally, PUD is working this week on fixing their vault located on eastbound College Way, just east of Riverside Drive.

b) Idling Trains, Railroad Crossings, and Train Blockages:

The City receives complaints about issues associated with the operation of the railroad and the condition of road crossings. Esco briefed Council about progress that has been made on several of these concerns. The Hoag Road crossing is on the schedule for improvements this year and will require a 48 hour closure. Additionally Esco is trying to coordinate work to grind off the bump on the College Way crossing at the same time that the Hoag Road crossing is repaired.

Improvements have been made as far as reducing blocking trains and BNSF have responded to the causes of idling trains at the siding south of Blackburn (apparently mudslides to the north). Staff continues to build a better relationship with BNSF staff.

5. Miscellaneous

a) School District Reciprocal Agreement – *Mayor Boudreau*:

Mayor Boudreau informed Council that a school district reciprocal agreement discussion on the Public Works Committee agenda has been postponed until next week; however, she briefly discussed the topic. Mayor Boudreau has attended 2 meetings and study groups to discuss ideas for an agreement between the City and Mount Vernon School District (MVSD) in regards to shared facility use. The biggest topic is use of the Sherman Anderson baseball fields and related maintenance costs as MVSD has been utilizing the field as their home and practice field. A brief discussion was held regarding whether or not Skagit County or MVSD might be interested in purchasing the Sherman Anderson field. Additionally, this year, the MVSD began utilizing the Kiwanis Park field as the girls' softball home field. In the meantime MVSD will provide labor for maintaining the fields this year while working towards longer term details. Another area of interest is the fields located near Mount Baker Middle School. Mayor Boudreau noted a potential use for the land as a community area that could also fulfill a need for more soccer fields; the biggest issue at this time is irrigation.

b) Special Counsel in Public Defender Matters – *Scott Snyder*:

Scott Snyder, Special Counsel in Public Defender matters, briefed Council on matters related to an ordinance to adopt new standards for public defender services, an amended contract for indigent defense services and a contract for indigent defense services conflict counsel. These items are on the Council agenda for approval and Mr. Snyder's briefing was to address any questions regarding the services. The proposed standards are identical to neighboring community standards and are designed to incorporate additional guidance in compliance with Judge Robert Lasnik's ruling. Eileen Farley will be submitting biannual reports to the courts to assure them the City is in compliance with current laws.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm



Sherri Pritchard, Public Works Department