



**Public Works Committee Meeting  
November 9, 2016**

**Attendees Present:**

Mayor Boudreau

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

Staff Members: Public Works – Bell, A. Chesterfield, B. Chesterfield, Love; Police – Dodd; Project Development Manager Donovan; Finance – Huschka; City Attorney – Rogerson; Parks & Enrichment Director – King; Fire Chief – Brice; Community & Economic Development Director Hyde

**1. Approval of Public Works Committee Minutes:**

Councilmember Hudson moved to approve the minutes from September 14, 2016; Seconded by Councilmember Fiedler; Carried by all.

**2. Program Coordination Division – *Blaine Chesterfield***

a) Drainage Facilities Maintenance:

City staff inspected 134 drainage facilities (115 Public and 19 private) during 2016. Additionally, the Washington Conservation Corp (WCC) and city crews were able to maintain 111 drainage facilities; routine maintenance on 66 facilities, additional non-routine work was done to 28 facilities, and WCC cleaned up and cleared 17 ponds & swales.

b) Annual Dry Weather Water Quality Screening:

On August 23-24, 2016, a consultant and staff conducted dry weather screening of 41 outfalls along Kulshan Creek; 35 of the 41 outfalls screened were originally screened in 2012. Six new outfalls were located and screened as well. No water quality issues were found; however, several catch basins needed maintenance and as a result of the screening were cleaned by the City's Transportation Department.

c) Low Impact Development Code Adoption:

The Ecology 2012 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington is on tonight's council agenda for adoption into the Mount Vernon Municipal Surface Water Utility Code. These code amendments will result in using Low Impact Development (LID) for Stormwater water quality and quantity treatment where feasible.

**Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit 2013-2018:**

- Section S5.c.4.a
- Required to "Implement an ordinance"
- This "shall be adopted and effective no later than December 31, 2016."
- Permittees may choose to use the requirements, limitations, and criteria in the 2012 Stormwater management Manual for Western Washington as Amended December 2014 or an equivalent Ecology approved manual.

Instead of collecting the water on hard surfaces, LID is intended to infiltrate the Stormwater into the ground at many locations using best management practices.

**Best management Practices (BMPs):**

- Rain Gardens
- Bio-Retention Pond
- Pervious Pavers, Concrete, or Asphalt

Pictures were shown of various BMPs already implemented locally; the Skagit County rain garden, River Front plaza pavers & bio-retention cells, College Way pervious concrete sidewalk, and Martin road pervious asphalt sidewalk.

Discussion was held regarding maintenance and durability of pervious concrete vs. asphalt and how asphalt can have a tendency to have more maintenance issues as concrete is more rigid.

**3. Project Updates – Mike Love**

a) Suzanne Lane Sewer Restoration:

The Contractor is working to lower the ground water table adjacent to the Suzanne Lane sewer line. Complications in the dewatering system have delayed the start of the excavation work. Dewatering efforts have reached a depth of 10 feet; however, it needs to be at least 15 feet in order to achieve the repairs. Tomorrow, November 10, 2016, crews will dig down to verify soil conditions have not changed from what is expected.

**4. Public Works Director Comments – Esco Bell**

a) Alley Vacation (Barker; Dunbar & Lincoln):

Due to complaints on the condition of the alley between Barker & Baker; Dunbar & Lincoln, and the fact that the City doesn't have a public use for the land, the Traffic Safety Committee is recommending City Staff work toward vacating the alley right-of-way. Council members were in agreement with staff moving forward and presenting the vacation process to the abutting landowners.

b) Neighborhood Speed Limits on Narrow Street Width Developments (i.e. Digby Heights, Twin Brooks, Skagit Highlands):

The Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) is recommending removal of 25 mph speed limit signs from neighborhoods that warrant lower speeds. The Committee is considering alternate signs in neighborhoods that may help drivers identify slower than 25 mph streets. As an example, recent speed monitoring was conducted by the police in the Twin Brooks Neighborhood. Findings were that 85% of traffic was traveling less than 17 mph. Traffic Safety Committee is recommending removing the 25 mph speed limit signs from low speed/low volume neighborhood streets to not encourage traffic to feel a need to go as fast as 25 mph. The TSC will consider alternate signage to speed limit signs, reminding drivers they are on a neighborhood street. The speed limit remains 25 mph whether posted or not; however, Engineering Staff will look for additional signage that may help in reducing speeds in these low speed/low volume neighborhood streets. Any signage suggested by staff will be vetted through TSC and follow Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards.

c) Vintage Lane Fence:

Esco presented a proposal to perform a one-time fix of the fence inside the north boundary of the Vintage Lane right-of-way. Esco's proposal includes a one-time repair of the fence to clear up the perception of responsibilities for operation and maintenance of the fence left from the conditional use permit process more than 10 years ago; the adjacent owners could maintain and repair the fence thereafter, but the City would not. The fence is approximately 535 feet long with 4x4x8 posts spaced at 8 feet. Approximately half (30 posts) would be replaced with 4x6x10 posts in concrete. Total material costs would be less than \$5,000 and approximately two weeks of crew work fit in as time allows.

Three property owners were present and discussion was held between staff and Council members regarding history of the fence as well as perception of duty. Mayor Boudreau requested the property owners to write a letter outlining their specific requests for City staff to review. Options may then be presented to City Council at the next Public Works Committee meeting currently scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2016.

d) Flood Awareness:

Esco briefed the Council on current flood awareness activities. Each October the community (County, Cities, Dike and Drainage Districts) gather for several meetings and exercises in preparation of the flood season. City staff attends the meetings and gave a presentation on the Downtown Flood Protection project.

e) Proposition 1:

Esco spoke of the good news that the voters passed the City's proposed transportation tax by a strong margin. Near term efforts that these funds will allow are:

- Additional street crew employee.
- Purchase of a small paver/tack trailer and increase to the spot repair budget.
- Fully fund Laventure/Section signalization project (with potential TIB grant).
- Perform as much street overlay work as the inflow of funds allows.
- Remove property tax revenues from transportation funding.

Alicia Huschka explained that the funds will include 7 months in the 2017 budget year at approximately \$800,000. Staff will work to get the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) set up and would like Council to consider including the following three elements in the 2017 budget:

- One FTE (mid-year hire)
- Strengthen the overlay program
- Property tax relief (to be shifted back to the general fund).

**Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm**



Sherri Pritchard, Public Works Department