

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SUNSET HILLS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

September 1, 2022

The Sunset Hills Public Works Committee met Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 4:00 PM via Zoom

**Roll Call.**

**Present:** Cathy Friedmann - Chairman – Alderman Ward III,  
Ann McMunn – Alderman Ward I,  
Casey Wong – Alderman Ward II,  
Fred Daues – Alderman Ward IV.

Also Attending:

Patricia Fribis – Mayor,  
Christine Lieber – Alderman Ward II,  
Erik Ihle – Resident – 12852 Shadow Lane  
Dennis Dodel – Resident – 10800 Forest Path

1. Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2022

**Motion:** Minutes,

**Action:** Approve,

**Moved by** Fred Daues,

**Seconded by** Ann McMunn,

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Citizen Comments (10 Minutes Set Aside for Comments)  
(Comments Only – No questions – 2 Minutes Per Citizen)

There were no citizen comments.

3. Geyer Road – Speeding/Traffic Calming (Alderman Wong)

Mr. Baker indicated he had some traffic data from the PD for Geyer Rd. Chairman Friedmann asked for an update on the traffic sensor. Mr. Searcy responded it should be here soon. Mr. Baker brought the data was from over the weekend up onto a shared screen. Chairman Friedmann commented that the speed indicated drivers were about 3-5 miles per

hour over the speed limit. Alderman Daues wanted to make sure the resident in Sunset Grove was contacted with this information. Mr. Baker responded affirmatively. Alderman Wong commented that this road handles a lot of traffic, but the counts varied widely. Chairman Friedmann said this item will be followed up with an in-house traffic study.

4. Public Works Garage Exterior Security Cameras

Mr. Baker explained that two consultants studied the matter and a budget was assembled for the 2023 budget of this item and the other areas requested last time by Alderman Daues. Chairman Friedmann asked for a clarification on the matter of an “ongoing expense.” Mr. Baker said he would look further into this question and report back. Alderman Wong asked about the budgeted amount. Chairman Friedmann responded that was about a \$26,000 item for the budget. Mr. Baker clarified that he thinks he put in for \$30,000 on this line item.

5. Storm Water Study – Forest Path & Shadow Lane (Alderman Daues)

Alderman Daues spoke on this item saying he toured both the Shadow Lane area and Forest Path areas where residents have incurred problems once again with flooding. He detailed that the City has a history with this regard with the tax approved in 2006 and asked for some history on the bridges replaced on Tributary B. Mr. Searcy responded that he thought many of those structures were replaced as part of one or more MoDOT BRO projects. He explained that these were 80/20 reimbursement grants that were applied for and administered by then City Engineer Anne Lamitola after a hydrology study performed by Cole & Associates. Alderman Daues asked if the City did storm water projects under this so called “Proposition P” for Parks & Storm Water. Mr. Searcy indicated that there were several projects like this performed in the Mattese Tributary, which is the area from Sunset Ford to points east toward Sappington Rd. Mr. Searcy expressed that there were inherent “expensive and substantial” problems the City encountered when working in the back yards of these private properties. Alderman Daues asked if much of the early activity associated with the Prop P tax was toward storm water mitigation efforts. Mr. Searcy said he thought this was mainly toward the construction of the Community Center and Aquatic Complex. Alderman Daues provided details of the income generation of this proposal making the point that this maybe should not be allowed to “sunset” and be used toward more storm water mitigation efforts. Chairman Friedmann asked staff what could be done. Mr. Baker responded that we can do a study, but the Committee should be aware that these are expensive efforts that have a history of achieving relatively minor benefit. He asked for Mr. Searcy’s recollection of City actions in this regard. Mr. Searcy agreed with Mr. Baker’s comments and gave a brief history of the bridge change outs on Tributary B that may have improved the ability to handle water, but that there were private bridges such as Sunset Glen, the Krumm property, and the Finney property that were not addressed. He detailed problems incurred at Weber Hill with what he termed “land squatters” who held the City

hostage for right of way that was needed for that bridge. Alderman McMunn asked where the water came from. Mr. Searcy said we were inundated and backups from smaller, private bridges do not allow for good flow. He explained that the area was overwhelmed with back up water from private creek bridge crossings that acted as impediments to create a flash flooding scenario. Alderman Daues commented that this has been an ongoing matter and is not getting resolved. He asked who owned the culvert under Nanell. Mr. Searcy looked this up in City's GIS system to be MSD structure 27N2-064D. Chairman Friedmann summed up the matter by asking what could be done by a consultant. Mr. Baker responded that if the City could develop a scope, an engineering firm could develop a series of projects and assess a cost for same. Chairman Friedmann asked for action from the Committee.

**Motion:** To have staff develop a scope and seek prices from an engineering firm to study the storm water issues discussed.

**Action:** Approve,

**Moved by** Fred Daues,

**Seconded by** Ann McMunn.

Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Friedmann asked if this can be answered by the next Public Works Committee. Mr. Baker responded that would depend on engineering firm workloads, but may be possible. Chairman Friedmann asked about the blockage under the Baalbek Bridge. Mr. Baker responded that we perform these cleanings every couple of years and we observed this blockage after this event. He added that staff was in the process of getting this scheduled and accommodated with required equipment rentals, etc. Chairman Friedmann asked if this was contributory to the issue off Shadow. Mr. Searcy responded negatively, that Baalbek is on another channel that is upstream of the channel behind Shadow Lane.

#### 6. Street Maintenance – Require Certain Amount Budgeted Per Year (Alderman Daues)

Chairman Friedmann complimented the presentation made at the Board of Aldermen regarding regular street maintenance budgeting. She asked for a clarification of a set amount. Mr. Baker asked Mr. Searcy for his input. Mr. Searcy said the concept is to:

1. value the entire street network in current dollars,
2. determine the annual cost by considering the design life of the different pavements,
3. divide that result roughly by four,
4. make sure this becomes the regular programmed amount funded.

Mr. Searcy said this has not been the standard in recent years and road network pavement quality directly indicated this negative trend, causing the need for this study. He emphasized the need for consistency in programming regular road maintenance budgets. Mr. Searcy commented how the Public Works Department will be more aggressive in getting road projects out earlier in the season when contractor slates are empty and bidding is more

competitive. Alderman Wong commented that road construction budgets will still be subject to scrutiny and may suffer when other directives are deemed more pressing in the budgeting process. Mr. Baker commented that we have been standardizing budgets for street striping and will be doing so for joint sealing concrete pavement, but the consideration relative to rusting guardrails is more of a cosmetic issue rather than a structural/safety issue.

**Motion:** To implement regular road construction budgets using the following criteria:

1. value the entire street network in current \$,
2. determine "Annual \$" by dividing by the pavement design life (20 asphalt/25 concrete),
3. divide that result roughly by four, making the current amount to be \$500,000 for the City of Sunset Hills street network.

**Action:** Approve,

**Moved by** Ann McMunn,

**Seconded by** Fred Daues.

Motion passed unanimously.

Aldermen McMunn asked about the complaints database issue regarding pavement markings on Windward Ridge. Mr. Searcy explained these are arrows and street striping on Windward Ridge at Watson Rd. that will be addressed in this year's Street Striping bid package.

#### 7. Tree Plan (Alderman Wong)

Alderman Wong indicated he was looking for an update regarding this matter. Mr. Baker responded that he reviewed it once, sent it back to Gerald for some updates, and now is ready for his second review. Chairman Friedmann asked what the process was from here. Mr. Baker responded it will go back to the Parks Committee's Tree Board that is driving this process. Chairman Friedmann asked if there were specific criteria Alderman Wong desired. Alderman Wong responded negatively, that he had not seen a recent version of the document. Mr. Baker stated that many of the major concerns have been addressed, but concern over larger development clearing is still under consideration as well as individual property owner considerations. He added that "Value Trees" are still under consideration as well and have more restrictions associated.

#### 8. Bids

- Striping – Mr. Searcy reported that Striping came in under budget at \$15,000 this year from Traffic Control. He commented that this was \$10,000 under the budget of \$25,000.
- Asphalt – Mr. Searcy said that the low bid was submitted by Missouri Petroleum for the Chip Seal project. He stated they came in at \$75,642.77,

which is about \$15,000 over the \$60,000 Chip Seal budget this year. Mr. Searcy said that this year's project includes East Robyn in Ward II as well as Eddie & Park from East Robyn to S. Lindbergh. Chairman Friedmann asked how many miles this included. Mr. Searcy responded that it is probably about a mile. Chairman Friedmann asked about difference in pricing between Nova Chip & regular asphalt. Mr. Searcy said that a Nova Chip surface is more porous and requires more binder to hold the rock than a regular asphalt surface.

**Motion:** to recommend approval of the Chip Seal bid to Missouri Petroleum to the Board of Aldermen,

**Action:** Approve,

**Moved by** Ann McMunn,

**Seconded by** Fred Daues.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** recommend approval of the Street Striping bid as submitted by Traffic Control to the Board of Aldermen,

**Action:** Approve,

**Moved by** Fred Daues,

**Seconded by** Ann McMunn.

**Yes:** Ann McMunn, Casey Wong, Fred Daues.

**Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3, No = 0, Abstain = 1).

**Abstain:** Cathy Friedmann - Chairman.

## 9. Project Updates

- Bass Pro Shops – Chairman Friedmann expressed her appreciation for inclusion of the submittals. She asked if there was anything different in this versus what was required. Mr. Baker said it appeared in order to him. Chairman Friedmann asked what the next steps were. Mr. Baker stated that this was submitted by Castle to MoDOT on August 12<sup>th</sup> and that we are now waiting for their comments, then Castle will then incorporate those comments before sending a final plan back to MoDOT, upon MoDOT's approval it will be ready to go out for bid for construction. Chairman Friedmann asked if there was a time frame for the comments. Mr. Baker said this depends on MoDOT's workload and speculated it would take 3-4 weeks. Chairman Friedmann then asked when the final version would be submitted. Mr. Baker said that would depend on how long it would take Castle to incorporate those comments and that would depend on how many items needed to be addressed. He speculated that could be another 2-4 weeks. Chairman Friedmann asked about MoDOT's review of the final plan. Mr. Baker responded that depends on whether all comments were aptly

addressed by Castle in the plan. He commented there could be further iterations of approval until agreement. Chairman Friedmann asked if Sunset Hills will be included in the process. Mr. Baker commented that anything major would be communicated to the City. Chairman Friedmann commented that we are a couple of years after the fact on Tidal Wave, which was disappointing, and we'd hate to incur a similar fate in this instance. Alderman Wong asked if a truck can make that turn. Mr. Baker said this will be a requirement with MoDOT and Castle is designing it accordingly.

- Eddie & Park Sidewalks – Mr. Baker responded that Heimos property is now good with the changes and have verbally agreed to easement negotiations. He said that bank still wants the entire wall replaced.
- West Watson Road Improvement Project – Phase I & II – Mr. Baker stated that we met with the resident of the stone house that is most impacted with this project. He said they were accepting of the need of the project and we will be going forward with the public input meeting. Mr. Baker said our consultant will meet with these residents with regard to property acquisition and generally things seem to be moving in a proper direction. He commented we are waiting on MoDOT to approve the right of way plans. Mr. Baker said that after that approval, we will then be able to move forward with right of way negotiations.
- Robyn Road – Shoulder – Chairman Friedmann said this was moving along.
- Council Chamber A/V – Chairman Friedmann asked if the material was in yet for this project. Mr. Baker stated that Brittany has been working with the consultant and they gave her a definite construction date of mid to late October and believe they will have a complete system delivered. Chairman Friedmann asked why the September date was not met. Mr. Searcy said they pulled some serious strings to get this moving for October and are absorbing the cost of a \$1,000 more expensive processor to make the job happen during this October construction time period. Mr. Baker agreed in that most but not all was going to be available for another 18 months.
- Concrete Slab Replacements – Alderman Daues asked about this item that was on his list, but apparently not on the other committee members' lists. Mr. Searcy reported that we are in paperwork with M&H and Sweeten completed their slabs and are moving into paperwork mode as well. Chairman Friedmann asked if everything went OK with Sweetens. Mr. Searcy responded affirmatively.

- Salt Dome Retaining Wall – Chairman Friedmann said it appears this will be moving forward with the blocks observed on-site.
- MoDOT – Hwy 30/W Watson - Intersection Enhancements – Mr. Baker responded that one of the ideas was a reduction of speed to 50 mph, but a speed study may recommend an even higher speed of 65. He said that a flashing light was explored, but MoDOT outright objected to that idea. Mr. Baker said they are looking at some increased signage such as “Dangerous Intersection Ahead.” He added that MoDOT was receptive to a right-in right-out configuration. Alderman Daues commented about restaurant & gas station signs on Highway 30, located before W. Watson, that end up misleading the public to use W. Watson instead of 141. Chairman Friedmann asked how long the speed study will take. Mr. Baker said he did not know as MoDOT would not commit to a date for this. Chairman Friedmann asked when the “Dangerous Intersection Ahead” sign would be placed. Mr. Baker said this was a separate matter that would be given to someone else in MoDOT’s office for follow-up. Chairman Friedmann asked again when a decision on the sign would take place. Mr. Baker responded this was unknown and commented that MoDOT appears inundated with other projects and work. Chairman Friedmann asked if the right-in right-out intersection was a decision the City needed to take up with MoDOT. Mr. Baker agreed with the point of this question, but responded that MoDOT would have to take such a request up from their main office to seek approval. He added that the right-in right-out concept was considered favorable to MoDOT with the reduction in traffic maneuvers on Highway 30 and the overall increase in safety. Alderman Daues asked if this configuration would save lives. Mr. Baker commented that he thought it would be safer, but there would be public outcry against the idea. Chairman Friedmann asked Alderman McMunn for her thoughts. Alderman McMunn commented that she was also concerned about that traffic moving up to Weber Hill where that left hand turn was not very “driver-friendly.” She also expressed concern over drivers performing a U-turn at the dump entrance before Mauer Industrial. Alderman Wong commented that this discussion was interesting in that it is a commensurate situation to when W. Watson floods; where there is little complaint during these shutdowns and extra traffic is likewise sustained on Weber Hill. He commented that he agrees with Bryson’s assessment that there would be public outcry with a right-in right-out, but felt this was more a perception issue rather than reality. Mr. Searcy commented that he felt a diverging diamond would solve a lot of issues at Highway 30 & 270 and offered Dorsett & I-270 as an example.
- Other Construction Projects – there was no discussion on this addenda item.

#### 10. Other matters deemed appropriate

Alderman Daues asked if the Committee wanted to take the developer charge per lot up for further consideration. Mr. Baker showed the committee a proposed Ordinance drafted by staff toward this consideration. Chairman Friedmann said she wanted more time to think about this before discussion at the next meeting. Alderman Daues asked if the proposed ordinance could be emailed to committee members for consideration. Mr. Baker said he would follow up accordingly.

Alderman Daues complimented the Pavement Management Presentation prepared by staff and the patience exhibited during the proceedings of the last Board of Aldermen Meeting.

Alderman Wong asked if a copy of the Whalen development was available for distribution. Mr. Baker responded negatively.

Chairman Friedmann asked about a Zoom instant message from Mayor Fribis during the meeting requesting a flashing light at I-270 and Highway 30. Mr. Baker responded that this was request from Mayor Fribis for a flashing light for southbound traffic from Highway 270 to westbound Highway 30. He said this was discussed with MoDOT and they were not very receptive, but they were going to look at maybe just a sign here instead.

#### 11. Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn at 5:31pm,

**Action:** Approve,

**Moved by** Ann McMunn,

**Seconded by** Fred Daues,

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully,



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Bryson E. Baker, PE

City Engineer / Director of Public Works