

Street and Alley Committee Meeting

Agenda

May 26th, 2021

5:30PM

Present: Tami Christensen, Janet Sergent, Joe Stevenson

Absent: None

Visitors:

Mayor Norby, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Shanks, PWD Hintz, Building Inspector Rasmussen, Rocky Torgerson, Billie Hillesland, Heidi MacGrady

1. Sidewalks- City Ordinance #9-1-14 AND #9-1-17:

Chairman Christensen called the Street and Alley Committee Meeting to order at 5:30PM to discuss sidewalk ordinances and drainage issues in North Meadow. Alderwoman Christensen mentioned that these ordinances are very straight forward, and that these ordinances should apply to all the businesses in Sidney. Alderwoman Christensen mentioned that the city has two choices:

1. Have PWD Hintz write a letter saying that they are okay for each business.
2. Have PWD Hintz write a letter saying that all business cannot have items on the sidewalk anymore.

PWD Hintz mentioned if you let one business have either signs or other objects on sidewalks then the city needs to allow all businesses in Sidney to do it. PWD Hintz stated that if the council wants PWD Hintz to start enforcing these rules, he has no problem with doing that. PWD Hintz also stated that he took care of the White Drug overcrowded sidewalk issues earlier this spring, so that will not be a problem this year. Alderwoman Christensen asked if the smoking benches by the rangers if that consider sidewalk, or no? PWD Hintz mentioned it is considered on the sidewalk, but PWD Hintz also said that a bench is there for a purpose not really an obstruction in the way, you can get around those benches with a wheelchair. PWD Hintz said that MIMI'S Kitchen sign that they had out was in the sidewalk crossing and there is no way a wheelchair could get around it, PWD Hintz mentioned that the sidewalks downtown are around 10 feet wide. PWD Hintz also said that central AVE street sidewalk varies in different sizes, along with side streets they vary from business to business. PWD Hintz stated that they only time business was allowed to display goods on the sidewalk was during crazy days or approved sidewalk sales, Mayor Norby stated he does not see the harm with having these business have objects on the sidewalk if they are willing to work with the city regarding wheelchairs and the site triangle.

Building Inspector Rasmussen mentioned that he is unable to permit anything that is not on their property, and that is why he cannot permit signs on sidewalks because sidewalks are public property. Building Inspector Rasmussen said in the zoning code book under "outdoor advertising" the codes list what is exempt from needing permits. Building Inspector Rasmussen also stated maybe the city could change a section in the zoning book under the "outdoor advertising" section to state that businesses must be able to leave a minimum of 36 inches in the site triangle. Building Inspector Rasmussen said if the business were to move their signs out of the site triangle, then they

should be fine, PWD Hintz said if an accident were to happen in the site triangle the city would be liable for that accident. Building Inspector Rasmussen is making a recommendation to change the zoning code to exempt signs from the downtown business districts if they meet a certain size. Building Inspector Rasmussen explained that a site triangle is so many feet in line with a building and in line with the sidewalk, the middle part would be no zone. Alderman Stevenson mentioned if the businesses knew where the site triangle is, then those business could put a mark on the sidewalk knowing where they could put their displayed goods at every day. Building Inspector stated he could prepare a plan to take it to city council for approval, on what guides there will be and on what he would recommend.

A general consensus was made to allow Building Inspector Rasmussen to write up a plan from the zoning code book and take it back to City Council for approval.

2. North Meadow Village Drainage Issues:

PWD Hintz mentioned that Rocky Torgerson approached him a while ago about some North Meadow Village Drainage Issues, PWD Hintz mentioned that the city uses the corridor for drainage. PWD Hintz mentioned that the red line is where the culvert is, there is some pipe is exposed and people are driving on it, and PWD Hintz mentioned that the city did not authorize it. PWD Hintz also mentioned that drainage is critical up there, a couple of years ago the city crew went up there and cleaned out the ditch. PWD Hintz mentioned that by the city crew cleaning that ditch it lowered that ditch quite a bit, and it also saved the city from a lot of efforts and headaches. PWD Hintz mentioned that problem that the city is facing right now is that the homeowner thinks the ditch is ugly and cannot mow it. PWD Hintz is proposing would be to put in a pipe and cover it up and the whole problem would go away but, down by Rocky's house the city needs to look at it.

PWD Hintz mentioned that he has already talked with Molly Davidson with Morrison-Maierle Inc, to further investigate this project and Molly mentioned that she believes it should not cost the city over \$400.0 for her look into this. PWD Hintz is also proposing to put in a 24-inch squash pipe and pipe it to the corner property of Rocky Torgerson and his neighbor and obtain an easement from Rocky Torgerson to do this. PWD Hintz said to the best of his knowledge there is no drainage easement on his property, Mr. Torgerson mentioned he would like for the city to take out the existing culvert and replace it with a bigger one. PWD Hintz mentioned that Rocky's house along with his surrounding neighbors are 2 feet lower than the street, and by putting this culvert in it would provide some protection and insurance for Rocky property from flooding. PWD Hintz threw together an estimate with pipe prices and the city crew could put this in with the help of an excavator and would take two to three days to install. PWD Hintz also stated that some materials would take up to four to five weeks to be delivered to Sidney, and that estimate is around \$39,000.00. PWD Hintz also mentioned he would like to do the Partin project as well, excavation would be cheaper on this project because it is already partially dug up. PWD Hintz that Molly would look at both projects for the city but, she has not put them into the model yet. PWD Hintz mentioned that these projects can come out the sewer funds, and a land surveyor would draw up

the easements. A general consensus was made to allow Molly with Morrison-Maierle to look over these plans before a final decision is made.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

BreeAnn Shanks- Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Tami Christensen, Committee Chair