

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

April 21, 2010, 2:35 PM

City Council Chambers

Members Present: Jason Wiener (chair), Ed Childers, Dick Haines, Roy Houseman, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Dave Strohmaier, Pam Walzer, Jon Wilkins

Members Absent: Marilyn Marler, Lyn Hellegaard

Others Present: Ginny Merriam, Steve King, Carla Krause, Doug Harby, Monte Sipe, Kevin Slovarp, Brian Hensel

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the minutes of [April 14, 2010](#)– Approved as submitted.
- B. Announcements – None.
- C. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items – None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. [Petition 9469](#)—Josh Yakos on behalf of Clark Fork City Church—a petition to vacate a 20' wide alley right-of-way located adjacent to Lots 1-10 and Lots 11-20 in Block 7 of Manitoba Addition located in the northwest 1/4 of Section 17, T13N, R20W P.M.M., Missoula County, Montana. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Carla Krause) (Referred to committee: 04/19/2010) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council consider a resolution of intention to vacate the alley in Block 7 of the Manitoba Addition, with the additional condition that an easement for maintenance be granted, and schedule a City Council public hearing for Monday, May 10, 2010.

Carla Krause, Special Services Administrator, stated that Block 7 of the Manitoba Addition was platted as a normal city block in 1889, and has developed differently than the original intentions.

Mr. Wilkins asked where garbage was being picked up. Ms. Krause stated that the alley is a dead-end and there is no garbage pick-up in it, so the garbage is likely on-site. There is a church on the north side of the alley and a vacant lot on the south. The alley has never been developed. Sewer and gas mains are located in the alley, but both affected entities indicated that the vacation won't affect the maintenance of services as long it remains a grassy landscaped area. The church property has been working to bring its parking lot and its development into compliance, and the best way to do this is to vacate the alley. The site plan provides off-street parking, ADA compliance, safer pedestrian access, on-site vehicular circulation and landscaping in excess of requirements. Staff is able to support the vacation request with the conditions that the owners of Block 7 maintain permanent unrestricted drivable 20-foot wide access up to and including the sewer manhole with no permanent structures or improved landscaping, and that within six months of the vacation approval, the construction of the amenities shown on the site plan must be completed.

Mr. Wilkins asked whether the alley could be used as an egress to the parking lot and Ms. Krause replied that it could not, due to the easement to maintain the utilities.

Mr. Wilkins made the motion.

Ms. Walzer stated that she didn't see an easement on the site plan and that she wanted to make sure it was clear in the future what they could or could not do with the area. Ms. Krause stated that they could add a condition in the resolution of intention that an easement document must be drafted. Mr. Wilkins accepted the condition as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Wilkins asked if the owner could sell the property into individual lots later, because they are already platted and Ms. Krause replied that they could.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Approve an engineering services agreement with WGM Group, Inc., for redesign of the Miller Creek Road project storm drain system to accept drainage from Upper Miller Creek Road. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Monte Sipe) (Referred to committee: 04/19/2010) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Agreement for Engineering Services to WGM Group, Inc., for redesign of the Miller Creek Road Project storm drain system to accept drainage from Upper Miller Creek Road in the amount not to exceed \$7,500.

Monte Sipe, Construction Project Coordinator, stated that the current agreement is for \$7,500 and that there would be a discussion later on an interlocal agreement. The County Public Works Department requested the City consider accommodating drainage from above, which required a reanalysis of the drainage and upsizing of the system to accommodate the additional flow. Staff recommends approval of the contract. The interlocal agreement to consider funding is in draft form and has been sent to the County for their agreement.

Mr. Wiener asked if the County would reimburse the City for the \$7,500. Mr. Sipe stated that the City would pay from Miller Creek project fund, and the interlocal agreement will specify how the County will be reimbursing the City for the design, \$7,500, and the upsizing of approximately \$32,000.

Mr. Haines asked if the additional cost was due to the larger pipe. Mr. Sipe stated that it was; the concrete pipe and manholes need to be upsized.

Mr. Haines made the motion to approve the agreement.

Mr. Jaffe asked if the \$30,000 in project costs would be reimbursed as well and whether there would be another contract to approve. Mr. Sipe stated that it would be reimbursed as part of the interlocal agreement and that they were already dealing with the physical construction portion as a change order with LS Jensen.

Mr. Haines asked if they had seen the design from Upper Miller Creek and if the pipe was just coming into the one for the City's project. Mr. Sipe stated he had not seen the design, but that they felt this was the best way to deal with it.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Agreement with Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for city of Missoula Street Maintenance Division to perform a large scale paving project on the state route as described on the attached Appendix C and in accordance with the city's state route maintenance contract. (memo) – Regular Agenda (Brian Hensel) (Referred to committee: 04/19/2010) REMOVE FROM AGENDA

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign Appendix C of Special State Projects Fy11.

Brian Hensel, Street Division Superintendant, stated that under this contract, the State will reimburse the City for the cost to mill and pave Brooks Street from Higgins to Mount. This is his best estimate of what it will cost.

Mr. Wilkins made the motion to approve the contract.

Ms. Walzer asked if they knew yet what the final project would look like and if that had any bearing on the contract. Steve King, Public Works Director, stated that the paving would be coupled with the grant money for the curb work for \$237,000. The road configuration has not been resolved, and that parking, travel, and bike lanes will be decided with the final paint layout. If necessary, they could do the final chip and seal with paint next year, though they would prefer not to. The width between curbs will remain the same as it is now, though the original plan was to widen it and make it a complete street with bike lanes, parking, lanes, and travel lanes.

Mr. Jaffe stated that when the plan was to widen the road, the urban forester identified some hazardous trees. He asked if they would do some work in the boulevard to amend the soils and enhance the planting to replace the trees even if they don't widen the road. Mr. Harby stated that project went out to bid with the original concept. They were able to work with the successful contractor for quantity changes for the redesign, which left some excess money for tree work, possibly around \$50,000. There were between 32 and 37 trees identified as needing immediate removal regardless of the project's status. They are trying to contact the Department of Commerce to determine whether there are any problems using House Bill 645 money to buy trees and do boulevard rehabilitation. The urban forester is talking to residents about the types of trees they would like to see. They are trying to work quickly and see what they can do with the extra money.

Mr. Jaffe stated that the tree removals don't have to precede the roadwork, but enhancements to the ground would happen during the road work, and it would be best to get the trees out before the heavy equipment comes in. The time

to dig up the soils is before they put down the concrete, but the time to plant trees is September or October. Mr. Harby stated that they paid an extra \$10,000 for the redesign, and the Street Division will remove curbs and pin-downs, the concrete contractor will lay down new curb and ramps, backfill behind the curbs, and put the sumps in. At some point the trees need to be taken care of. The concrete work must be done by August. They would like to finish everything with trees before they put curbs down. They will give notification to residents and get opinions on what trees they would like to see. They will probably buy the trees and leave them in the nursery, and the Parks Department will plant them during planting season. The contractor will get bids from three nurseries and the tree removal will be subcontracted. There are project complexities which need to be finished in a quick manner.

Mr. Haines asked if the street will be the same as it is now, with the only difference being the striping, and Mr. King stated that it would.

Mr. Wiener stated that he appreciated them taking care of the trees, but was disappointed to hear there would be no bike lanes and asked about the street width. Mr. King stated that the width was 41 feet, and there were a number of possible lane configurations. There could be travel and parking lanes, travel and bike lanes, or travel and bike lanes on both sides with parking on one side, with a shift in the center line. That is not resolved yet, but will be before it is painted.

Mr. Wiener asked what public outreach was planned. Ms. Merriam stated that there was a proposal from the MSU extension forester, who suggested the City's Urban forester select half a dozen species. He could arrange a tour of the state arboretum on campus for people to see what the trees look like fully grown.

Mr. Childers stated he would like the Council to be involved in determining configuration of road. Mr. King stated that Brooks Street was state right-of-way, so the Montana Department of Transportation has the final say. The City, including the City Council, has an advisory role.

Mr. Childers called the question. The motion to end debate passed unanimously.

The motion to award the contract passed unanimously.

Mr. Haines stated that because they are already taking some trees out, it would be false economy not to widen the street now, even other trees are healthy. He likes the trees, but felt the street should be wider. Mr. King stated that was the original plan. They wanted a complete street to accommodate traffic, parking, and new bike lanes, which would have required removing three to four feet of boulevard on each side. After public comment at the meeting, the commitment was to put the curbs back where they are. The trees are at full maturity and are in decline, and there is an opportunity to remove some now. The remaining trees will need to be dealt with sooner or later.

Ms. Walzer asked if they changed the center line of the road, if there was anything under the pavement they would need to reconfigure. Mr. King stated that there were some at the intersection with Higgins, but that retaining the curbs keeps the detectors as they are. The bike and/or parking lanes will be dropped at the intersection, and the intersection and current turning lines will remain as they are now.

Mr. Jaffe stated there was an opportunity for complete streets, but the preservation of the boulevard won. The Brooks Street corridor is a historic resource and defines Missoula. It was a tough decision.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the boulevard is beautiful, and he wouldn't want to change it. He asked if it would be possible to put the bike lane in the boulevard, made of gravel so water could trickle through. Mr. Harby stated that one proposal of a meeting attendee was to swing the bike lane over the boulevard with permeable paving such as brick, but there was not enough money in the project.

Mr. Harby stated that for House Bill 645, they got the agreements in September, and got approval of the original configuration of 48 feet in February. They would normally take longer to resolve these issues, but if they don't do the project now, they will have to find other money. They settled for the 41 foot width and took it back to the state to discuss configurations. Any delays from the Council or the public could kill the project. The new trees will be planted back farther from the curb than the old trees. They are hoping to replace 30 of 107 trees on the street, and there were 12 more that were marginal and could have been damaged by the widening.

Mr. King stated that the complete streets resolution states that any deviation from a complete street needs to be approved by the City Council, so they will be back for formal action if they can't get a complete street.

Mr. Haines stated that they could put extra width on the sidewalk to accommodate a bike lane there as well.

Mr. Wilkins stated that at the University Neighborhood meeting, he got the question of why there were no more sidewalks being installed in University area. Mr. Harby stated that the project will be continuing on McLeod, Keith, and Beckwith, in about four weeks. They will also be finishing up slant streets. SID is 5th/6th.

III. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion on the sizes of grease interceptors for the restaurant industry ([Grease Interceptor PowerPoint](#)) ([memo](#)).— Regular Agenda (Stacy Rye and Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 04/21/08)
2. Consider restructuring the city's Sewer Loan Program along the lines of the recently approved change to the Sidewalk & Curb Loan Fund.—Regular Agenda ([Chapter 3.16 – Sidewalk & Curb Loan](#)) ([Chapter 3.18 Sewer Loan](#)) ([Ordinance 3344](#)) (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 06/26/06)
3. Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and the County of Missoula related to the Reserve Street / Mullan Road Intersection Improvements Project. ([memo](#)) Regular Agenda (Gregg Wood) (Referred to committee: 01/11/10)
4. Review infrastructure conditions at the locations of serious and fatal traffic accidents: 2007-2009 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 01/25/10)
5. Discuss CMAQ program activities prior to grant application submittal to fund bike ped office activities ([memo](#)).— Regular Agenda (Phil Smith) (Referred to committee: 04/05/10)

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica S. Miller
Office Manager
City Public Works Department