

STREETS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MEETING MINUTES

of June 8, 2020

In Attendance: **Vermilion City Council:** *Steve Herron, President of Council; Monica Stark, Council at Large; Emily Skahen, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five; Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*

Administration: *Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Police Chief, Chris Hartung; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director*

Call to Order: Steve Holovacs, Chairman, RESOLVED THAT this Streets, Buildings, & Grounds Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

TOPIC ONE: Riverside Drive

B. Holmes said they had a rain event on May 15 and council members received video of water coming off Vermilion Road. He said they are getting these rain events more often and within these rain events they are seeing more surface water issues, and a lot more runoff is coming down in many areas. He said Riverside is already dealing with the river issue, which is obviously Mother Nature and a lake issue, but as far as the surface water issue and the water coming down off the hillside from Vermilion Road, they've discussed some options. He said when they redid Vermilion Road, they added the tile there and that tile is not to deal with the surface water, but if any water happens to get under the pavement. C. Howard agreed this is surface water coming off the hill and explained that the underdrain for Vermilion Road runs further south and there is an outlet there. He believed there is a 12" or 15" pipe that comes from Gilbert and comes across that has been there for years. B. Holmes said they need to look at slowing the water down that comes across the hillside, and in his previous job they had a similar issue happen in a park district where a lot of surface water was coming out of a storm water and washing out their park trail. They cleared the ditch out where the water came down and added more rip rap/rock and it slowed the water flow and it dispersed the water better and stopped the water from flooding out the roadway. He said they would need to discuss this as it's a private property issue as well, so they would need to get access to the property to make those corrections. He said being on the agenda today is just the beginning of the conversation in maybe moving forward on resolving this issue.

T. Valerius agreed that most of this is runoff water and certainly a lot of that water slopes towards the catch basin at Gilbert, which then goes out to the

outfall and this is where you see the major amount of water coming down. He said this is something they would need to investigate.

F. Loucka said the river was down, so it wasn't water from the river, but there was an incredible amount of water that was cascading down and flooding those back yards.

B. Holmes said these rain events are causing more surface water due to the amount of non-permeable surfaces (blacktop/concrete), so the water must go somewhere.

Liz Vasil of 1015 Riverside Drive asked who oversees maintaining the huge ditch that comes down. She said a lot of it is covered by trees from the flood – year after year it floods and stuff catches in there, so then it's clogged that way, so whose responsibility is it to clean that. T. Valerius said it depends on if they have an easement and he would need to investigate this. B. Holmes said if a ditch runs through your front yard, then you're responsible for that ditch, but this ditch is a little different because it's coming off the surface water off Vermilion Road and down onto private property, but certainly clearing the ditch would help and this would stop the backup, but it's something they would need to look into and see who is responsible for this.

Joe Wild of 1013 Riverside Drive said the water is not coming off Vermilion Road; it is coming from the other side of Vermilion Road. They tried to clean that ditch out and it doesn't work. They need to run a pipe all the way down to the river. B. Holmes agreed that it's coming from the east side of Vermilion Road (Gilbert). J. Wild said yes, it's coming from the east side when they built those houses and the guy should have run a pipe all the way down to the river, but he didn't.

B. Brady asked if this issue could be referred to the Storm Water Committee. S. Holovacs said there has been no meeting scheduled for the Storm Water Committee, so he asked the administration to come back to Council with additional information at the next Streets meeting, and then they can look into scheduling a meeting with Storm Water. He said this isn't the only water problem they have within the City of Vermilion.

Liz Vasil agreed that other places have storm water issues and everybody gets rain and basements get flooded, but in their case she thinks it is different because they already have the river coming up through the sewers onto the road and they don't need all of this other water coming down the hillside onto the roads and onto their properties. Other areas will get their basements flooded and their streets might flood for five minutes, but their street is flooded all the time, so this additional water doesn't help the situation. She said they are dealing with the river and they know that they live on the river, and understand this will be an issue, but water coming

down from another road doesn't help. She can't think of any other neighborhood that has this situation, maybe the Lagoons.

F. Loucka asked if there would be clarification made at the next meeting as to whose property this is and can the administration check to see if there is an easement, or to get an easement. To him, piping would be an improvement rather than having water cascade everywhere. S. Holovacs asked the Service Director and City Engineer to evaluate this issue and come back to Council, so they can discuss this to determine what they can do to solve this issue.

TOPIC TWO: Project Updates

S. Holovacs said there are projects the City has stopped and started back up, so he asked the Service Director and City Engineer to give a status on the projects in the City.

T. Valerius conveyed that on Vermilion Road they installed curb drains on the southbound lane (west side) and they performed base repairs, and paved an intermediate course, so starting tomorrow they will finish up a few areas and then by Wednesday they will switch lanes, so they will be milling the northbound lane starting Wednesday and all traffic going north will actually be in the southbound lane. They will change the signage to make it clear for everybody. All the millings will go to the Service Center and they will save those for later use. C. Howard said the project is still on schedule for completion by July 31 and they have not asked for an extension, so the City is still holding them to their contract agreement.

C. Howard reported on the Highbridge Road Reconstruction Project as it will be going out to bid next week. This is OPWC money for Round 33.

With regards to the Sunnyside Road Phase I Project, Stage Two Plans were submitted to ODOT last month and this project has a tentative bid date of March of 2021.

He said relative to the Safe Routes to School Project they are still in the process of acquiring about 20 temporary easements. All the appraisals have been completed and obviously with COVID it slowed the process down of meeting with individual property owners. He is guessing there might be an end of August start date.

He said the contractor started work on the Haber Road Bridge Replacement Project last week and they are currently working on the waterline.

He provided an update on the OPWC projects as last year the City applied for two projects under Round 34, which is Maplevue Drive and Liberty Avenue (12" water main replacement). Currently, there is no funding available for Round 34 projects. This funding typically becomes available July 1, but

currently they have not passed that budget, so this money is not available. They also told the City there is no money for Round 35, so they will not be taking project applications in September or October like they have in the past. This is subject to change on the State passing the budget. Both projects were slated by the City for later in the year. Mapleview was a construction for next year and Liberty Avenue was slated for early 2021 construction.

M. Stark asked what section of Mapleview was included in the project. C. Howard said it is from Hollyview to Forestview.

C. Howard said the fire station project is proceeding and they are on schedule. They hold weekly progress meetings. He said the pre-engineered metal building is supposed to be delivered June 22, so they will start seeing vertical construction. As with any project there are little bumps in the road, but they will get through it.

S. Holovacs adjourned the meeting after no further business came before the committee.

Next meeting: July 20, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio.

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk
