

Earlham City Council
Street Committee
July 28, 2021

The Street Committee of the Earlham City Council met on Wednesday, July 28th, at Earlham City Hall. Chairperson Baskin called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., and the following answered roll: Baskin, Fredericksen, Petersen. Also present: Public Works Supervisor Coffman.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Petersen, second by Fredericksen, to approve agenda.

2. Discussion on tree removal due emerald ash bore

Baskin reviewed previous discussion. Button (Adel Tree) would do as he could. Talked about getting second quote to work in conjunction with. Need to know where to get money from. Coffman does not want to see it all come out of RUT funds. He said we have budgeted \$23,500, but he feels this should be spent on trees other than ash that need to be taken down. Approximately 90 ash need to be removed. Petersen stated we have money in General Fund and could take it out of there. Baskin said we need to avoid emergency, e.g. storm where they all come down and destroy property. We have someone in town who can grind stumps. Baskin suggested targeted approach. Get rid of dangerous ones first. Talk with Mary Sue about possible funding. Coffman said both he and Hibbs have looked for grants, and have found nothing. Action items: have Hibbs check on funding; Coffman will contact Hinkle on stump grinding; and target risky trees.

3. Sidewalk repair

Baskin stated several places need repair. Coffman said they can mark bad sidewalk, but City does not have money budgeted to pay for repairs if property owners choose to have the expense applied to their property taxes. Need to walk sidewalks, mark and write down needed repairs. Baskin asked about timeline. Send letter to owners to repair and explain repairs. If not done by a date, we'll fix and charge them. Baskin suggested finding out how many "tripper" spots there are and then come up with strategy. Fredericksen said we should budget money for sidewalks every year, and make sure assessment receipts go back into the RUT fund. Discussion on having sidewalks put in where there are none, including city park.

4. Discussion on request from Madison County Hospital to reserve parking spots for the Earlham Clinic.

Baskin read Hibbs email regarding the request for reserved parking spots in front of medical clinic. CEO of Hospital says elderly have trouble finding places to park, supposedly due to increased business at Beans & Beignets. Coffman stated there is a handicapped spot there. If you mark spots for one, you have to do for all. Coffman said supposedly they could put up their own temporary signs and City would not be involved. Baskin said he thinks it's different because it is a medical clinic and he's not against it. Coffman said it would require an ordinance to enforce it. Coffman stated there is more business downtown so everyone needs parking. It's not city responsibility to govern what customers park where. Discussion on other businesses possibly wanting to do the same thing. Fredericksen said committee should take no action. Consensus of committee to take no action.

5. Other discussion – Coffman read City Code 136.5 regarding sidewalks.

6. Adjourn

Motion by Fredericksen, second by Petersen to adjourn.

Being there is no further discussion, meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Andrew Baskin, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk