

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Earlham City Council
Earlham Street Committee Meeting
October 5, 2021

The Earlham Street Committee met on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at Earlham City Hall. Chairperson Basking called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Baskin, Fredericksen, Petersen. Also present: Public Works Supervisor Coffman, Clerk Hibbs, Councilmember Swalla.

1. Approval of Agenda – Consensus to approve.

2. Discussion and possible action/recommendation on sidewalk project completion.

Baskin said they need to decide how to pay for the new sidewalks. Swalla said he talked to mayor. After recommendation is made to council, then get letters out to residents now saying it will be started in July 2022, so money can be budgeted for. ADA ramps are city responsibility. Does not need to be done all in one year. Discussion on if ADA requirements have changed. Coffman, finish previous project first or go ahead and start repairing places that are trip hazard. Swalla suggested finishing off where project left off. Coffman felt fixing “trippers” should be done first. Some issues in some locations: empty lot; trees in the way; ditch, no curb and gutter.

Coffman said he doesn’t want to use street repair money to pay for this. Swalla asked about grants: Safe Route to School; money for ADA compliance. Coffman stated we do not qualify for Safe Route to School. Hibbs stated general fund has money and could pay for part of this. Hibbs reminded them, residents pay for new sidewalks, and city will pay the bill upfront if resident chooses to put this on their taxes and pay over 5 years. Coffman stated sidewalk on Oak to east requires storm sewer. Discussion on locations where there are no sidewalks.

Swalla concentrate on what recommendation to make to Council. Coffman - what is amount you want to spend and then get plan on what you want to do, and then put out for bid. Get bids.

Suggested options similar to the beginning of the 1996 project: “1) I will make arrangements to have the work completed; 2) I wish the city to coordinate the repairs and I will pay the cost on completion; or 3) I wish the City to coordinate the repairs and I will participate in the 5-year special assessment program, where payments will be made in equal installments due annually with property taxes.” Baskin said he believes more people will choose the latter option.

Discussion on why building permits for new homes do not require sidewalks. Never in code? Unwritten rule? Dropped out of updated code? Coffman and Gordon have researched this in the past. Need to look into getting ordinance to get it put in the Code. Hibbs will look into this.

Fredericksen said to leave city property sidewalk alone for now. Coffman, put burden on property owners at this time? Need to decide whether to go forward. Where do you want to start and dollar amount. Consensus to go forward. Swalla burden is always going to be there. Repairs first thing we should attack. Coffman pointed out areas that were in original project but were never done. Fredericksen suggested doing the city in quadrants. Need to spend money wisely and logically. We have two blocks at park that the city owns.

1) Decide on possible quadrants roughly for new and repair (money can determine quadrant). 2) Letters to everyone this fall regarding pink markings for repairs. 3) Get quotes before budget time. 4) possible engineering?

3. Adjourn

Motion by Fredericksen, second by Petersen, to adjourn.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Being there was no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.