

## **FORT THOMAS COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Public Works Committee**

Meeting Summary

December 2, 2019 4:00pm

Ken Bowman, Chair

Adam Blau

Jeff Bezold

Mark Collier

Others in Attendance: Eric Haas, Mayor

Ron Dill, CAO

Joseph Ewald, Finance

Jann Seidenfaden, City Attorney

Chris Manning, Human Nature

3 Citizen Observers

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The meeting agenda was a continuation and an update regarding projects/initiatives related to roads, utilities and city-owned buildings. Items discussed included:

#### **Review of Property Assessment and Franchise Fee Policies**

As a continuation of the discussion from the last committee meeting in November, Staff shared a memo outlining the inter-relationships of the Assessment Policy, Franchise Fees, and the Street Program Policy, along with a new spreadsheet outlining different estimates of potential Franchise Fee revenue. There continued to be agreement that a hybrid approach of reduced Assessment, low/no interest loans for owners of larger lots, and a Franchise Fee was the proper approach. Most of the discussion centered around the amount of reduction in Assessment and the percentage of Franchise Fee.

After some discussion, it was agreed to remove some of the cost items from the assessment formula that would decrease the costs to property owners by approximately 10%. These costs would be then be borne by the city. The lost revenues from assessments and the need to increase revenues within the budget to address street reconstruction projects would be generated through a potential increase in the franchise fee agreement with Duke Energy. Discussion continued on what percentage increase would cover cost. A final recommendation would be determined when the franchise negotiation was reopened with Duke.

#### **Waterworks Road/Memorial Parkway Intersection Traffic Complaint**

Staff shared information about a recent traffic complaint, along with a couple of different options for addressing it that had been developed by the City Engineer. After some discussion, it was agreed upon to place striping and flexible bollards in the middle to encourage drivers to slow down when entering the intersection. It was further agreed that the bollards will have as much reflective material on them as possible, for good visibility at night.

#### **Route 8/6335**

Staff shared an update on the future of Rt. 8/6335. Essentially, the City is still waiting to review a draft of the updated report from KYTC. The City still plans on meeting with the County, Southbank, and utility companies about a coordinated approach with KYTC in the coming weeks.

### **Grand Avenue Road Diet and Roundabout**

Staff shared an update on Grand Avenue. The City is still waiting for the results of a Traffic Impact Study from KYTC. Meanwhile, the City Engineer is studying the roundabout in more detail to estimate an approximate budget. The Mayor has had some initial conversations with our State Representative, Joe Fischer, and they are encouraged that potential funding could be available for the roundabout. Staff still needs to follow up with Joe Erpenbeck, one of the adjacent property owners, to discuss potential impacts to his property.

### **James Avenue/Highland Avenue Intersection Safety Enhancements**

Staff shared an update on the proposed safety improvements to this intersection near Moyer and the Swim Club to improve site distance and crosswalk safety. The City Engineer had developed a preliminary grading plan, new curb lines and vertical alignment, in order to understand potential impacts to adjacent properties. From this initial investigation, it appears that the safety improvements can be made and still maintain access to the two adjacent residential properties. It will likely require retaining walls on both sides. After some discussion, it was agreed to continue in this direction with more detailed engineering and costing. It was also agreed that the plans should be shared with the School and Swim Club.

Councilperson Collier and some of the citizen attendees expressed concern that they did not want this to be the first phase of revisiting James Avenue as the main entry/exit for Highland Hills Park, as had been explored during the Community Plan process. Staff assured everyone that these plans were intended to address the safety concerns at the intersection only. However, Staff reminded everyone that James Avenue will remain as an important access point for the School, Swim Club and Highland Hills Park, and there are planned improvements to the lower portion of the park that will eventually require parking and some repaving of the road, which is in very poor condition.