



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Works Council Committee

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Present 6 - Mitch Johnson;John Street;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-22:090](#)

Minutes for the Public Works Committee meeting on October 6, 2022

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Mitch Johnson;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-22:195](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 818 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering and Finance

Attachments: [818 Creath Avenue - Order Authorizing Sale of Easement](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Mitch Johnson;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

Councilmember Chris Moore said could Craig give us an update on that path. Tell us what the time frame is. I've noticed that we have striping on the road. Engineering Department Director Craig Light approached the podium and said the resolution that you just forwarded on to Council, I believe, is the very last piece of property to acquire. I know we have three that are going through the condemnation process but this is the last one. They had some legal issues they had to take care of before they could actually sign the documents. CWL is going to start moving their utility poles next week on the 10th or 11th. That work will take several months to get the utilities out of the way. We still have to get authorization from the highway department to bid the job out, we have to certify right-of-way first. So, we have to close on these properties, certify right-of-way and then bid. Our plan is to get the certification done by the end of this year, so we can advertise in January. Which would put the contract before the Council in early March. Then notice to proceed issuing would start in mid to late March. That's the idea of when that construction project would start. Councilmember Moore said can you just outline the path for us? Mr. Light said it would start here at Creath Street by City Hall, go east to Reeves, turn south and take a little jaunt. Councilmember Moore said is Reeves the one by Hedger Brothers? Mr. Light said Reeves is where Quality Precast was. We'll go south down to Hope, at Hope it will take a little dog leg and then it'll go south to Washington, then it will go from Washington to the Marion Berry overpass. Councilmember Moore said so we're going to cross on the Marion Berry overpass and then down onto the ASU campus. Mr. Light said correct. Councilmember Moore said you think we will be bidding the project out in the spring? Mr. Light said as I said we have to get authorization from ArDOT to actually advertise and the only piece to that is the right-of-way certification. So, we have to close on these properties. That's the idea, we close between now and the end of the year, get the certification, get the authorization to advertise in early January, open February, and then start construction in March. That's kind of the timeline.

Councilmember Moore said so all the path then is on the south side of the railroad tracks and goes to Marion Berry. What did we do at the railroad tracks behind Quality Precast? Did we go under the tracks or was that CWL down there laying a water main? Mr. Light said yes that was CWL laying new sewer lines. They upgraded their sewer through there. Councilmember Moore said I got you. Mr. Light said we still have a section of trail that's unfunded that would put in some overpasses in over the railroad tracks and tie into the University. The last cost estimate with that was a little over \$8 million and we still don't have any funding.

Councilmember Moore said I didn't know if we were going under the railroad tracks there and going to have a path on the north side of the track down to the ASU campus. Mr. Light said no, Union Pacific was unwilling to grant us rights of access under the railroad tracks. Councilmember Moore said that would be a fabulous place to cross under. Mr. Light said they just said no. We're not going to discuss it with you and we're not going to permit it. That's when it was really looked at as an overpass and the price is what it is. This phase will connect it into Marion Berry, so there will be a connection and you will be able to get some place. We've been working on a lot of sidewalk over on Aggie. The intent is to get it pushed all the way down to Bridge Street. There'll be a path on the south side of the railroad tracks and a path on the north side that would be a continuous help for people to move through there. Councilmember Moore said I know

the railroad said no but if the railroad was to say yes, is there a short connector over to Aggie or is there right-of-way problems on that side of the track? Mr. Light said you would have to cross Burlington Northern as well. Once you get underneath then you still have the obstacle of crossing the other railroad. Councilmember Moore said so there's not a trestle under Burlington? Mr. Light said no, they've got a couple of pipes but they're not large enough to get through.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said the MLK issue, are they going to post those or what are they going to do with that? Mr. Light said the MLK construction plans? Councilmember Coleman said yes. Mr. Light said they are looking to open bids on that project this month. So it's out for contractors to prepare bids on it and at some point this month they will open bids on it. I did get an email from them today about our railroad portion of it, because we are going to have to make some modifications to the cities railroad track that ArDOT is paying for. Council has done approved those agreements, we'll have to hire a contractor at some point, but they'll be paying for that cost as well. Estimated costs on the railroad work is just shy of \$800,000. Councilmember Moore said now are you talking about work out on MLK road or are you talking about the MLK trail right down there? Mr. Light said the MLK road. Councilmember Moore said ok. Mr. Light asked Councilmember Coleman if that's what he was asking about. Councilmember Coleman said I was going to ask two things. One was the MLK road and then also the MLK trail. Mr. Light said this is the MLK trail we're talking about. Councilmember Coleman said ok thank you.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said so what is the date of completion on this MLK trail? Mr. Light said hopefully this time next year we'll be completed. It's going to take a full construction season. It's going to be tight quarters. I mean it wouldn't take that long if it were wide open and in the middle of no place, but working in the interior and there's going to be a lot of conflicts as we go along. I would say this time next year we would be finished with it, if not sooner.

Councilmember Bryant said where else can we go paint some lines like we did on Creath? Mr. Light said we are going to go paint some paint markings at Stroud and Greenbrier, just at the intersection to try and narrow that intersection at least visually to get people to slow down as they enter that intersection. We get a lot of calls about people coming down that hill on how fast they're going, so we're hoping some paint lines will get people to slow down and proceed through that intersection with a little more caution. This is kind of a trial and we're hoping the paint lines will do that before we make any real structural concrete changes.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said one more question. Is the bicycle area going to be wide enough to mark so there can be side by side driving? Mr. Light said which roadway? Councilmember Coleman said either one, the MLK trail. Mr. Light said the MLK trail will have bike lanes as part of the project. We will have bike lanes and sidewalks.

Councilmember Chris Moore said down where you're talking about on Stroud and you're going to narrow the road way. Is there going to be narrow driving lanes and then a bike lane also? Mr. Light said no, we're just going to narrow the road way. I think it's four foot of clearance between the curb and what we want to narrow it up to, so it's not really wide enough to call it a bike lane. If you're going to call it a bike lane you have to have five foot plus a three foot buffer and we don't have that. Councilmember Moore said traffic is bad on Stroud. My parents live on Stroud, up by the sled hill. Mr. Light said our plan is to just concentrate on that intersection and maybe going out a hundred foot either direction of the intersection. It's not to paint the entire street at this time.

We're just going to concentrate at the intersection and see how it goes. We can then discuss if we want to change it to concrete or paint additional lines. We're just going to step our way through it.

Councilmember Chris Moore said while we have you up here, can you give us an update on what the response is on these rubber tabletops that we've installed? Does that seem to work? Mr. Light said I think at our last traffic control committee meeting we had four request for us to install them at various locations. I know they probably should be in already. I need to probably verify that, but on Hickory, they should have already gotten those installed. We ordered four, two were going on Hickory and the other two are unspoken for, but we talked about putting one on Matthews on the other side of the hospital, but I don't think we've committed to either one of those yet. People want them. They're very labor intensive to install. They're not inexpensive. We have five grand in the purchase of them, two days to install them and we're not sure how where going to plow snow. You are not able to plow snow across those. It's going to be additional work during those periods of how to get snow and ice off of them. We're talking about putting concrete ones on Main Street instead of rubberized ones, that way we could run a plow across them if we needed to. We do have two concrete ones that we built five or six years ago, and at that time they were costing \$8,000 to put in which is probably close to what we have tied into these rubber ones. We're getting a lot of request and for them, my concern is how many can you put in before you've spent all your money. Councilmember Moore said I can tell you someone that lives downtown. The ones on Union have made a drastic change on that traffic pattern down there. Used to people came over the bridge and it was forty to forty-five miles an hour down to Huntington and then fifty on to the light at Matthews. I've noticed that speed has dropped considerably there. It took a little while to kind of learn about them. It's definitely made downtown on Union much safer. Mr. Light said we've been talking a little about what the city's policy should be as in, when will the city put them in and when will the city not put them in. We're getting request like, we want one on our street, and they get ten cars a day, we can really go put one there. There has to be a threshold of volume of traffic on a roadway before the city would do it. Now if the neighborhood wanted to do it, there should be a mechanism for the neighborhood to purchase one and have it installed. We've kind of been talking about what that policy would look like but we don't have anything set. Councilmember Moore said \$5,000 to \$8,000, I would think there would be quite a few neighborhoods that would pull their money and buy one of those. Kinda of like the cameras. I would definitely think a policy should be developed and then we can put it out there and see. Mr. Light said Brian and I have been discussing it.

Chairman John Street said I don't know what the traffic count on Twin Oaks is, but I get more calls about speeders on Twin Oaks. You would think it would have a traffic calming effect with the curve stuff but they fly over there. Councilmember Chris Moore said that road he was talking about at Greenbrier has become the cut through between Harrisburg Road and Southwest Drive. Chairman Street said that has been that way for a long time. Anytime you see a street and it has double yellow lines in the middle of it I guarantee that is a thoroughfare. Councilmember Moore said and its forty-five feet wide. Chairman Street said yeah I take it all the time myself, but I remember a time when there was hardly any traffic on it but now it's a major thoroughfare. Councilmember Moore said the point I was getting to though, over the speed bumps, if the double lines doesn't work maybe before we invest in all the concrete of curbs and gutters and narrowing the road. We might just think about putting in a \$5,000 to \$8,000 table down there by the bridge. Mr. Light said we've had some request for speed bumps, but we have a little bit of concern about how fast people are going on that. They're not safe for them to hit them that fast. On those long roads like Hickory, we're

putting in two. They recommend that you put them in as pairs with certain spacing along a block. So some neighborhoods it may not just be one. Stroud is probably one of those streets that you would be looking at three, if you were going to do it, or at least two. One on each side, east and west, of the intersection, but you may be looking at two on east and west. Councilmember Moore said to be able to maintain a lower rate of speed. It just seems that would be more cost effective than curb, gutter and major road work through there.

Tony McShan, 316 Cherry Avenue, approached the podium and said I did an amendment today and I wasn't sure if I needed to come in tonight for it. Chairman John Street said that is on the Council's agenda. The Council is right after this at 5:30.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson LJ Bryant, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Mitch Johnson;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams