



Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

October 20, 2015

Summary and Motions

Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee Members F. Brown, Evans, Gibbs, Kay, Moloney, Stinnett, J. Brown and Hensley were in attendance. Committee Member Mossotti was absent. Council Members Akers, Bledsoe, Lamb and Scutchfield were also in attendance.

I. Approval of Committee Summary

A motion was made by Evans to approve the September 15, 2015 Planning and Public Works Committee Summary, seconded by Stinnett. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Snow & Ice Control Plan Update

David Holmes, Commissioner of Public Works, presented the updated Snow & Ice Plan, based on feedback from the last committee meeting. Susan Plueger, Director of Environmental Services, presented the Sidewalk Clearance Plan.

F. Brown stated he feels the issue of snow and ice removal is separate from the issue of sidewalk clearance. He further inquired about changing the street rankings within districts. Holmes stated the street rankings were not a part of the presentation as they focused on items brought up at the last meeting. Holmes informed that they are working on the rankings and will discuss those with Council Members individually. F. Brown stated his support for the new rankings.

A motion was made by F. Brown to adopt the service levels and accumulation amounts outlined on slide three of the presentation¹, seconded by Evans. The motion passed without dissent.

Moloney inquired if there is a different crew that will carry out the sidewalk clearance and snow and ice removal, to which Holmes replied that the Division of Environmental Services will have ownership of the sidewalk clearance.

Bledsoe inquired if Level 2 is an attempt to capture rank 5 streets. Holmes stated they will get to the unranked streets under any of the levels assuming they have finished rankings 1 - 4 and that the plan does not give time estimates for the unranked streets.

¹ Slide three of the presentation proposed the following service levels for stated snowfall accumulation totals: Level 1 – Trace to 4” (Rank 1-4 streets); Level 2 – 5” – 8” (Add residential streets); and Level 3 – 8+” (All streets plowed with private contractor support).

Akers inquired about the corridors support from private contracts and how those were determined. Holmes stated they assigned private contractors to broad boulevards, rather than residential areas so that the City could focus on the residential areas.

Gibbs thanked Susan Plueger for her work on the Sidewalk Clearance Plan and stated his support.

F. Brown inquired if the sidewalk plan considered different amounts of accumulation to which Plueger replied that when Streets & Roads mobilize, they will mobilize also. In response to a question from F. Brown, Holmes stated that Director Miller gives the mobilization alert to both departments. F. Brown inquired if the sidewalk plan will interfere with snow & ice removal. Albert Miller, Director of Street & Roads, stated it will be a timing issue that will have to be addressed and they are still discussing. Miller stated the sidewalks in question typically do not have driveway entrances as they are not residential. F. Brown stated he would like to see a list of sidewalks and priority levels by District. Plueger stated she will provide this. F. Brown stated that he is not sure he can vote on the sidewalk plan because it is a new undertaking and he feels he does not have enough information.

Lamb inquired if they took into consideration parks that are located near schools. Plueger stated they did not consider schools, but rather bus stops, noting that schools are responsible for their own sidewalks. Lamb inquired about ADA ramps on sidewalks and if they considered their locations in the plan. Plueger stated they need to look at this, as they do not want to damage the ramps with a plow. Lamb stated they received complains during the last snow events that individuals with disabilities were not able to access sidewalks.

Farmer stated his favor for the motion. He noted that it starts in FY 2017-18 and makes a commitment to the citizenry and pedestrians that the City has not made before. Farmer stated this also sets a good example for citizens to remove the snow from their own sidewalks and that he hopes they will move towards better enforcement of the existing ordinance regarding sidewalks.

Moloney stated his concern for enforcement in areas where vehicles are adding to the amount of snow on the sidewalks. Holmes stated the issue of sidewalk clearing enforcement has been put into Planning & Public Safety Committee for discussion. Moloney further stated his concern for salt damage to sidewalks during snow and ice removal. Plueger stated during the clearance process they will be experiencing the difficulties that pedestrians experience and hope to gain greater insight into these areas of need. She further stated they are looking into environmentally friendly pre-treatments that will not damage the sidewalks.

Holmes stated the amounts they look at are currently not budgeted and that the additional funding for sidewalk clearance would need to be discussed in the Fund Balance discussion at the end of the month.

Stinnett stated they need to look at where the funding will come from, noting the only source that has been mentioned is the Fund Balance. Stinnett noted they have not yet identified

funding for this project and that needs to be a consideration as they review the proposal, adding that it would be a long-term budgeting commitment.

Kay noted the city is just beginning to learn how to handle large snow events. He stated that enforcement alone will not be successful in getting citizens to clear their sidewalks and stated his support for an education and public relations push to make more people aware of their responsibility.

Evans inquired about the impetus for this proposal and Plueger stated this desire comes from citizens, Council and the Administration's input.

Hensley noted that there are not many sidewalks in the 12th District, and that he would not support the proposal.

Lamb inquired about the \$19,000 additional overtime cost. Plueger stated the amount is calculated for 22 mobilizations, 12 people, 4 hours per mobilization and the unit rate for an hour.

Gibbs stated he feels pedestrian needs have been largely overlooked for a long time in Lexington and that it is time to catch up.

F. Brown stated he cannot support the proposal due to his concern for the budgetary impact.

A motion was made by Gibbs to accept the sidewalk plan as proposed, seconded by J. Brown. The motion passed with a 7 - 2 vote. (Yay: Evans, Farmer, Gibbs, Kay, Moloney, Stinnett, J. Brown Nay: F. Brown, Hensley)

In response to a question from Farmer, Holmes stated the only funds in the budget for snow removal are for salt and general overtime (which is not specific to snow removal, but is divided between Water Quality and Street and Roads).

J. Brown inquired if it was challenging to find contractors for snow removal during the past winter's snow events. Holmes stated it was a challenge and noted that many contractors had contracts with the State and could not be mobilized in Lexington until state roads were clear. J. Brown inquired if there is a base fee to mobilize the contractors in addition to the \$10,000 and Miller stated there is not.

Moloney inquired how much money they have budgeted this year for salt. Miller stated the amount is \$600,000 and they have 4,500 tons of salt already in store. Moloney inquired how they paid for the mobilizations last year. Bill O' Mara, Commissioner of Finance, stated a budget amendment was passed to Council and they were able to move money from another area that had available savings. Moloney inquired if the proposals pass if they would locate available funds or if they would use the Fund Balance. O'Mara replied that they do not have variance they would be able to use only 3 months into the fiscal year and that they would suggest using the Fund Balance.

Hensley inquired if the City would be the first priority for the contractors this winter. Holmes stated that the RFP would only be for a single contractor and that they would be obligated to the City during snow events.

Evans stated she feels the discussion of the funds for the current year and the funding of snow removal going forward are two separate issues, requiring different motions.

Kay stated he feels they are asking for funding for the coming year and on an ongoing basis. Kay stated they are being asked to approve a plan, noting that the snow will be removed regardless, but it would be more efficient and effective to have an approved plan in place.

In response to a question from F. Brown, Holmes stated the only items in the budget currently are for overtime and salt. F. Brown inquired how the proposed amount compares with the amount spent last winter on snow removal and Holmes stated he does not have that information but it was a substantial number, larger than \$300,000.

Gibbs asked for clarification of the motion and Evans stated her intention to secure funding for snow removal for the next fiscal year, and that the plan for the current year would still need approval.

A motion was made by Evans to adopt the Snow Plan as presented, including recommendations for the FY2017 budget, seconded by J. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Hensley to call the question. The motion passed without dissent.

F. Brown inquired if the approval of moving forward with an RFP should include a funding amount. Holmes stated if they approve only the base \$172,000 “fit up” amount it would not pay for any mobilizations going forward. Farmer gave a breakdown of the funding options. O’Mara stated he recommend funding the \$172,000 and the amount given for 11 mobilizations. Holmes stated that amount is \$288,034.

A motion was made by Kay to approve as amended the request to move forward with funding the RFP to contract for snow removal in FY2016, seconded by F. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Kay to amend the motion to include a total funding for FY16 of \$288,034 (11 mobilizations), seconded by F. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

III. Sidewalks – Priority List & Funding

Derek Paulsen, Commissioner of Planning, provided an overview of current sidewalk deficiencies throughout the City, discussed prioritization of sidewalk installation, and reviewed a proposed process for sidewalk installation requests.

Stinnett inquired about the priority list and how it is developed. Paulsen replied that the list will be developed by the Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator along with the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). There was further discussion about the process. Stinnett inquired

if new development would be required to install sidewalks. Paulsen stated new development is required to install sidewalks if they do not already exist on the site.

F. Brown stated he would like a district map of the sidewalk priority list. He further inquired if curbs and gutters are a necessity for new sidewalks. Paulsen stated that the general preference is for curb and gutters to be installed at the same time as sidewalks.

Bledsoe inquired if asphalt multi-use paths are being considered rather than concrete sidewalks. Paulsen stated this may be considered on a case by case basis when the request is consistent with the Bicycle Master Plan.

Lamb inquired if there is a level of neighborhood support required to move forward with new sidewalks. Paulsen stated they will work with Council Members and neighborhood associations to engage neighbors.

Moloney inquired if sidewalks that are not ADA compliant will receive higher priority than sidewalks that have not been built. Paulsen stated that existing sidewalks are being evaluated for ADA compliance, and some funding is available for reconstruction for this purpose.

IV. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

Jennifer Carey, a representative from Water Quality, provided an update of the MS4 program. She reviewed program expenses for calendar year 2014, the number of active construction sites in Lexington, and enforcement activities related to same. Carey presented programs of potential concern, and near-term permit requirements.

A motion was made by F. Brown to accept the report of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, seconded by Hensley. The motion passed without dissent.

V. Downtown Speed Limits

There was no discussion on this item due to time constraints.

VI. Division of Water Quality Projects Report

There was no discussion on this item due to time constraints.

VII. Items Referred to Committee

There was no discussion on this item due to time constraints.

A motion was made by Kay to adjourn, seconded by Hensley. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

D.S. 10.26.2015