



## Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

October 24, 2017

### Summary and Motions

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Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Committee Members Stinnett, Moloney, Gibbs, Evans, Plomin, Bledsoe and Scutchfield were present. Council Members Kay, Henson, Lamb, and J. Brown were also in attendance as non-voting members. Committee Member Mossotti was absent.

#### I. Approval of Committee Summary – September 19, 2017

A motion was made by CM Plomin to approve the September 19, 2017 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary & Motions, seconded by CM F. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

#### II. Curbs

CM Jake Gibbs introduced the item and Doug Burton, Director of Engineering, presented. Burton said they have met internally to discuss how they have done things in the past and what needs to change to address concerns. He discussed the ordinance versus policy on curb responsibility. He said nothing specifically calls out responsibility in the ordinance. He said the policy in the past is LFUCG will only repair sidewalks if we impact it negatively through a capital project, but not during maintenance projects like repaving. He said we do not actively maintain curbs. He said maintenance has been owner responsibility but there are no citations or enforcement for curbs like there is for sidewalks. He said moving forward, curb evaluation can be a part of the pavement condition assessment, which will take place in fiscal year 2019. He said cost estimates can be generated from that. Burton said that generated information can be used to prioritize curbs in a way similar to the sidewalk study. He said the primary driver for curb priority will be function as storm water conveyance. He said aesthetics will be less of a factor. He said the prioritization list will allow for planning future repairs as well as funding them.

CM F. Brown asked about how the curbs and gutters will now be affected by paving since in the past paving to the curb and gutter has caused some issues. He also asked if the gutter is considered city responsibility and the curb is considered the property owners. Burton said it is considered one piece and that part of the problem lies in not having a policy or ordinance that specifies responsibility. CM F. Brown suggested doing work on curbs as work is also done on the catch basins.

VM Kay asked about the sidewalk downtown and how the sidewalk creates a curb. Burton said that even though it appears that way, there is an expansion joint between the two pieces which controls where it cracks and creates a curb. He said currently the ordinance only covers the sidewalk and the policy makes the curb the property owner's responsibility. VM Kay asked about the Old Limestone curbs and their protective overlay. Burton said if we are using federal funding, we have to consider the historical significance when replacing the curb. He said with local funding, the curb may be replaced but the limestone is stockpiled for an alternative use or relocation.

CM Gibbs asked if we will be putting something in the budget for this. Burton said it can be put in the budget similar to the sidewalk money. He said they will have to decide which division between Streets and Roads and Engineering makes most sense. He said it may be a mix of the two divisions. Gibbs said he would like to see a budget request put in for this for the next fiscal year.

CM Plomin said that the 12<sup>th</sup> district has had issues with roads not being milled before being paved. She asked if that will be part of the study. Burton said this study is only about curbs. CM Plomin said this has impacted the curbs. Burton said if it has impacted them then the paving assessment done by Environmental Quality and Public Works will recognize that.

CM Bledsoe asked how much it will cost to get the data/number of curbs. Burton said the estimate as of now is \$40,000 and it will go into next year's budget, so there may be an increase in cost between now and then. CM Bledsoe asked what the plan is for determining prioritization. Burton said there is no plan yet and the first step needs to be taken before those questions can be answered. CM Bledsoe asked if storm water funds can be used to pay for this. Burton said he wasn't sure. CM Bledsoe said that maximizing funding would make the most sense.

CM Evans asked where safety would fall on the prioritization list because there are curbs in her district with rods sticking out. Burton said public safety would trump the storm water conveyance issues.

CM Farmer said we need to make sure there is money in the FY19 and FY20 budget. Burton said whatever they normally request will be increased by around \$40,000 to include the curbs.

No further comment or action on this item

### **III. Vacuum Leaf Collection**

Rob Allen, Deputy Director of Streets and Roads, presented the item. He said in 2017, they will once again have the services of a private contractor, Republic Services, who will do about a quarter of the zone which is the northwest quadrant. He said inspectors from Waste Management or Water Quality will be assisting due to a shortage of CDL drivers within Streets and Roads. The contract was re-bid this year and it was a major change that includes a more effective communication component from our vendor, it requires them to work the same extended hours that we were working, and allows for penalty. He said on the plus side, it allows for the unit price contract so if they get done ahead of time, they can assist us if we get bogged down. He said residential homes serviced by Herbies receive leaf collection. He said that does not include apartments or commercial properties, but does include single family and duplexes. He gave an overview on the guidelines of leaf collection. He said they should be raked between the sidewalk and the curb and not into the street and should not contain any trash, rocks or other debris.

CM Moloney asked what citizens need to do who do not have sidewalks. Allen said to put the leaves to the side of the road or to the sidewalk. Moloney said we need to make sure to communicate this.

Allen continued by saying this service is supplemental and not meant to be the primary source of leaf disposal. He said the alternative leaf disposal methods include the Lenny, paper yard waste bags, landfill or private collection. He said collection will begin on November 6 and will be completed on December 20 and may be subject to change based on weather or other events. He said there is one round of collection and that street sweepers will be following the leaf collection crews. He also discussed the hours collection will take place and how collection will be communicated to the public.

CM F. Brown said that November 6 is early to start collection and pin oak leaves fall late into the winter. He said he would like to get the collection information so that it can be shared with constituents. Allen

said the dates have been finalized and Lex Call has received calls showing interest in collection services. He said the collection will be done quickly and will take place from west to east.

CM Bledsoe asked if zones are rotated every year. Allen said zones A and B can be rotated but Zone D is fixed because of the tree makeup. CM Bledsoe asked what the cost for leaf collection is per year. Allen said \$400,000. Allen said we saved around \$25,000 by not having to utilize an outside vendor to haul the leaves away.

CM Plomin asked how long we have been collecting year. Allen said it goes back to late 1980's. CM Plomin asked how we will have better communication with the vendor. Allen said the vendor would not communicate when their trucks would break down or when they began to work in a different area. He said they now pay a little more but thinks it is worth it to have a penalty clause and to have better communication to give relay to residents as well.

CM Henson asked about the costs related to energy efficiency in regard to running the trucks and the vacuums. Allen said Tracy Thurman, Director of Waste Management, may be able to provide that information. CM Henson said she is not a big supporter of this program, but she said asked if Waste Management would pick up the leaves when they aren't vacuumed. Allen said that is correct. Allen said this is more supplemental to help out with the Lenny and weekly yard waste collection which lasts until January or February. CM Henson asked if one zone uses the service more than others. Allen said the urban core and the new neighborhoods from the 1980s to present use the service the most. CM Henson said she believes that houses with larger yards tend to use the yard waste bags more than raking them to the curb for leaf collection. Allen agreed.

CM Farmer asked about the cancellation of Lenny pick up again this year in the winter months. Allen said it is all dependent on weather. He said after last year's mild winter, they are open to not suspending Lenny pick up this year if the weather is mild again.

No further comment or action on this item

#### **IV. LED Franchise Agreement**

James Bush, Section Leader for Energy Initiatives in the Division of Environmental Services, presented the item. He said 50% of their budget for electricity goes to street lighting services. He said we are limited in the ability to manage that asset. He said a representative from Kentucky Utilities (KU) declined to come and speak to the Council about the item. He discussed the background between LFUCG and KU in regard to street lighting. He said LFUCG pays KU to provide street lighting, KU street light options are under tariff and subject to approval by the Public Service Commission, and KU did not offer LED street lights until July 1 of this year. He discussed the benefits of LED lights including maintenance savings, lower emissions and energy savings. He gave an LED cost comparative and said that the LED lighting collaborative could start here as early as next month.

CM Farmer asked about the LED lights currently being used in Lexington. Bush said those lights are not part of the tariff and are state owned and maintained. CM Farmer asked about the cost to lighting ratio from LED lights. Bush said they are good on energy efficiency. He said they have less reason to care about energy use in the middle of the night.

CM Stinnett asked for clarification on Bush's last statement. Bush said the energy companies focus on capacity to generate electricity during peak hours. CM Stinnett said they are not interested in installing LED lights when their energy consumption isn't during peak times. CM Stinnett asked about the cost of changing from a Cobra to an LED. Bush said they will only change out the fixture with what rate code it currently has, which isn't a favorable response. CM Stinnett asked why new lights installed are not LED. Bush said that is something Traffic Engineering decides and it may be based on what is decided when developing new roads and neighborhoods. CM Stinnett asked what the premium is per light for new road projects. Bush said \$18 per light, per month. CM Stinnett asked Commissioner Hoskins-Squier if requiring LED lighting on road projects will be done moving forward or if they need action from council to request that. Commissioner Hoskins-Squier said requiring us to use LED lights while KU receives the savings does not make any sense. She said until they reduce the rates, it doesn't make sense to use LED. Bush said they hope to negotiate a rate that is fair to both sides. CM Stinnett said it should reflect what we do in our own homes and makes sense to switch to LED.

CM Henson asked if we still pay a certain amount per street light whether it is working or not. Bush said that is correct. He said it is a service we lease from them regardless if the light is on or not.

CM Evans asked what UG stands for. Bush said "underground". She asked what that is. He said electricity is underground which costs more on the front end but looks better. She asked why there is no equivalent. Bush said there was no conventional equivalent in that category.

CM Farmer asked to be kept informed and for an update at a later date. He said he has been approached by neighborhoods who would like other options for lights.

No further comment or action on this item.

## **V. Traffic Calming on Bullock Place**

Jeff Neal, Director of Traffic Engineering, presented the item. He said this does not meet the requirements for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP).

CM Gibbs said the neighborhood would like the calming devices and is willing to put up the money for them. He said he has the extra infrastructure funds and the total will be around \$9000 which he will be able to cover.

CM Bledsoe said many of her constituents want speed tables. She said it is hard to prioritize when there is no money. She asked if this is done a lot. Neal said outside of the NTMP funds, only a few times have they had overages like this to cover traffic calming devices. She thinks that maybe more monies should be allocated to traffic calming devices.

CM Stinnett asked if CM Bledsoe went through the NTMP process and there is no money to do the match. She said she would like to be able to pay them. CM Stinnett asked how you make someone pay. He said we should have a pot used for this. He said the NTMP fund is not fair. He said he supports CM Gibbs and this issue and will help funding, if needed.

A motion was made by CM Gibbs to approve traffic calming on Bullock Place, seconded by CM Plomin. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by CM Stinnett to approve the report out for traffic calming on Bullock Place at the 10/24/17 Work Session, seconded by CM Gibbs. The motion passed without dissent.

## **VI. Items Referred to Committee**

A motion was made by CM Gibbs to remove item #20, Traffic Calming on Bullock Place, seconded by CM Plomin. The motion passed without dissent.

Gibbs provided an update on item #5, Burr Oak Tree as Lexington's Official Tree.

CM Stinnett provided an update on item #8, Bicycle Lanes – Location and Timing. He clarified that this item is for bike lanes and not the issue on the Work Session agenda for 10/24/17.

A motion was made by CM F. Brown to adjourn, seconded by CM Evans. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

AML 11.8.17