

City of Colville

PLANNING COMMISSION

February 12, 2014

7:00 P.M. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Planning Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, in the Council Room at City Hall. Chairperson Jody Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Larsen, Terry Cripps, Jody Hoffman, and Dee Hokom. MEMBERS ABSENT: Brenda Buckner and Alan Bedford. One vacancy exists. STAFF PRESENT: Director of Building & Planning Jim Lapinski, Municipal Services Administrator Eric Durpos, and Recording Secretary Susan Davis.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting of November 13, 2013 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Russ Larsen moved and Terry Cripps seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business to be presented.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no New Business to be presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no public comments.

REPORTS

- A. Status Report on Hawthorne Avenue Project by Eric Durpos, Municipal Services Administrator.

Municipal Services Administrator Eric Durpos presented a status report on the proposed reconstruction of Hawthorne Avenue from Main Street/Hwy 395 to Miner Street. He explained that Welch Comer, the City's consulting engineering firm, worked with the City to develop a strategic plan. After several public meetings, two options for reconstruction were chosen. Story boards were on display illustrating conceptual plans Option A – Main Street/Hwy 395 to Alder Street and Option B – Alder Street to Miner Street, along with the proposed street layout, including a pedestrian/bicycle path, and utility installations. Paper copies were distributed to each member for information (copies on file).

Mr. Durpos explained that Option A proposes street reconstruction from Main Street to Alder Street, including the replacement of a water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, asphalt, and curbs/sidewalks with ADA ramps. A 10 foot wide paved pedestrian/bicycle path is proposed on the south side of the street in compliance with the City's Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan. The traveled way will be reduced to 28 feet wide from the current 44 feet wide to accommodate all of the street improvements and calm the traffic. The advantages of the design were identified as: keeps bicycles off-street, pedestrians/bikes separate from traffic, less asphalt to maintain, least upfront cost, landscape opportunity, and minimal property impact.

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The disadvantages of Option A were identified as: there will be no on-street parking, maintenance of landscaping, and left turn construction. Scheduled for 2014, Phase 1 – Hawthorne Avenue from Main Street/Hwy 395 to Walnut Street is a \$1.2 million project funded by federal and local funds based on its classification as an urban collector. Mr. Durpo stated the City has applied for grant funding for Phase 2 – Walnut Street to Alder Street, which is scheduled for 2016.

Option B illustrated the reconstruction of Hawthorne Avenue from Alder Street to Miner Street, including the installation of a new water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, asphalt, curbs/sidewalks, a paved 10 foot wide pedestrian/bicycle path, and a 25 foot wide traveled way, with an 8 foot wide parallel parking strip on the south side of the street. The advantages of this design were identified as: maintains on-street parking on the south side, bicycles off-street, partial pedestrian/bike separation, and minimal property impact. Disadvantages include higher capital cost and higher street maintenance. Mr. Durpos pointed out a preliminary design on Page 6 of the handout shows a potential small residential roundabout at Hawthorne & Miner Streets. The property owner on the southeast corner of that intersection has indicated a willingness to possibly give up some of his property to accommodate a future roundabout. Mr. Durpos advised that there is no funding in place for the last phase of the project but the City will continue to explore funding opportunities. The goal is to complete the Hawthorne Avenue reconstruction project by 2020.

The Commissioners recognized and appreciated the inclusion of the paved pedestrian/bicycle path, which is a goal identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Durpos confirmed that Avista will install a new 6" high pressure gas line on Hawthorne Avenue during the construction phases.

Russ Larsen referenced Option A, which showed deciduous street trees in the right-of-way and questioned who would maintain them. He felt coniferous trees would be more desirable from a maintenance standpoint.

Jody Hoffman questioned whether the proposed width reductions meet the City's minimum standards for street development. Eric stated the reduced widths absolutely meet the City's standards. He reported that the City Council recently adopted greenhouse gas policies which include looking for ways to reduce street widths to calm traffic and encourage alternative modes of transportation.

Mr. Durpos pointed out that the extension of Evergreen Way across the golf course from Hawthorne Avenue to Hwy 20 has always been a desire of the City. He felt even though the City has the right-of-way for the extension, future funding for development of the street is not very likely. He suggested that a more likely alternative might be to develop a minimum 10 foot wide paved pedestrian trail/multi-use path instead. Relative to a path, Terry Cripps felt consideration should be given to providing adequate access for emergency vehicles by minimizing obstructions such as fences and gates.

Eric Durpos presented the following reports on other projects:

- In 2009, a new 1 million gallon reservoir for the upper water system was constructed on Hwy 20, new wells were drilled to replace #2 & #3, new well houses were constructed, and a new on-site generated sodium hypo-chlorite disinfection system was installed.

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- The City has 44,000 feet of obsolete steel water mains that are leaking and in need of replacement. From 2010 through 2014 it is estimated that 22,659 feet of water mains will have been replaced. The goal of the Water Department is to replace all the obsolete pipes by 2022, which are predominantly funded by revenues from water rates.
- In 2011, using rate payer dollars, well #5 was abandoned and a new well was drilled along with a new well house. The new well, which produces ± 2500 gallons per minute, is one of the City's largest producers.
- In 2012, the Elm Street reconstruction project was accomplished involving ± 2400 feet of street improvements.
- In 2013, through the state Jobs Act Program, the City received \$750,000 for improvements to Reservoir #2 and the installation of 11,000 feet of 20-inch water transmission main from the wells to the reservoir.
- In 2013, a separate storm water utility was established by the City to provide the necessary funding to improve and maintain the City's storm water system. Beginning March 1st, the monthly rate for residential customers will be \$4. Commercial customers will be billed on a sliding scale based on impervious surfaces.
- Relative to water conservation measures, Eric explained that trying to use storm water for irrigation purposes is cost prohibitive because the water contains contaminants that need to be treated. He stated an upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant to provide Class A reuse for major irrigation for parks, for example, would require about \$1 million for infrastructure installation. He mentioned another small scale alternative program being explored is the possibility of using rain barrels that would hook to downspouts.
- The 2013 Garden Homes water line replacement project was accomplished through a loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Garden Home Water Association formed an LID to pay off the loan, which will cost each of the users approximately \$15,000. The new system, located in the urban growth area, will be maintained by the City.
- The Colville Senior Center project is moving forward with the help of a \$600,000 CDBG grant.

The Planning Commission thanked Mr. Durpos for his informative presentation.

Dee Hokom requested a status report on the Colville Mountain Committee. Jim Lapinski reported that the committee has held several meetings. It was his understanding that students at Eastern Washington University have volunteered to assist the Recreation Department upon development of a proposed plan. It was suggested that Recreation Coordinator/Committee Chairman Jake Wilson be invited to attend a future Planning Commission meeting to provide an update.

Russ Larsen asked if the City has explored the feasibility of extending East Hawthorne Avenue east/northeasterly to Hwy 20 above the reservoir site. Eric Durpos responded that nothing has been done.

Russ asked if the signal lights would ever be reinstalled on Main Street. Mr. Durpos advised that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has approved the current diagonal parking plan and there are no plans to ever reinstall the former traffic signals on Main Street.

At this time, Chairperson Jody Hoffman added item B to Reports for consideration:

B. Certification of Appreciation.

Ms. Hoffman explained that Commissioner Alan Bedford requested unanimous recognition of Melinda Lee's excellent work on behalf of the Planning Commission and suggested awarding her a Certificate of Appreciation. Several samples of wording for the Certificate were distributed for consideration and the members chose sample #2 to reflect their sentiments.

Dee Hokom moved that the Planning Commission award a Certificate of Appreciation to Melinda Lee. Terry Cripps seconded. Staff was requested to prepare the Certificate. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Lapinski confirmed that the City Council passed the Zoning Ordinance text amendments related to the keeping of chickens, temporary signs, and temporary uses.

It was reported that the owner of South Main Restaurant & Sports Bar (next to Benny's Colville Inn) is now advertising for staff. The Pizza Hut remodel in the former Arby's building has been completed. Demolition of the McDonald's restaurant on S. Main Street has begun and a new McDonald's restaurant will be built on the site.

At this time, there was brief discussion relative to the scheduling of meetings. It was a consensus of the members present to strive to schedule at least one meeting to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. It was recognized that a second meeting could always be scheduled on the 4th Wednesday if there is business which requires action.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Dee Hokom moved and Terry Cripps seconded to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 7:00 P.M., at City Hall.