

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

April 28, 2010, 2:20 PM

City Council Chambers

Members Present: Ed Childers, Lyn Hellegaard, Roy Houseman, Bob Jaffe, Marilyn Marler, Renee Mitchell, Pam Walzer

Members Absent: Jason Wiener, Dick Haines, Dave Strohmaier, Jon Wilkins

Others Present: Carla Krause, Steve King, Kevin Slovarp

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the minutes of April 21, 2010— Approved as submitted.
- B. Announcements – Steve King, Public Works Director, gave updates on various projects.
- They are still working on the Brooks Street pavement markings, and are working with the urban forester for tree restoration. The received notice from the Department of Commerce that they will fund significant boulevard restoration. They hope to replace approximately 35 trees. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board will be considering the alignment on May 13, and then staff will refer the item back to the Public Works Committee for final discussion before taking the recommendation to the Montana Department of Transportation for approval. A letter will be sent to Brooks Street property owners and residents informing them of the public participation opportunities.
 - There will be an agenda item at an upcoming Public Works Committee meeting to receive comment on the alignment and back-in angle parking on Spruce Street. Staff recommends May 26 for the discussion if the date works with the ward representatives. They will also have feedback from the Parking Commission and Police.
 - The Miller Creek Road project is on budget and on schedule. They had a public meeting with the Moose Can Gulley and South 39th Street neighborhood councils last week to discuss how the Miller Creek detours will affect upper Gharrett traffic. There will be ongoing work in community relations and police for traffic enforcement.
- C. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items – None.

II. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. Resolution to restore vacated Inez Street at South 2nd Street to the public trust and public use, and vacate a public access easement that was a condition of the vacation (memo).—Regular Agenda (Carla Krause) (Referred to committee: 04/26/2010) **HELD IN COMMITTEE**

Carla Krause, Special Services Administrator, stated that this portion of Inez Street right-of-way (ROW) was vacated in October 2004. Missoula Irrigation Ditch's intention was to go forward and make improvements once the property was combined. Conditions were placed on the vacation, including the execution of a public access easement, which was completed. The other condition was to construct improvements on the easement for public access, and that condition was not met. The conditions of the vacation could not be met due to financial issues beyond the control of the Missoula Irrigation District. They would like to talk to the irrigation district about keeping the easement, either in return for keeping the ROW vacation or for some other restitution. There is currently poor access off the alley onto Russell Street, and it would be nice to keep the easement as an alternate route out of the alley. If the committee feels it would be worth keeping it, staff would like to hold the item in committee. Mr. King added that the alley is steep and gets icy in winter. It may be worth retaining the easement as an alternate access and they would like time to pursue that.

Mr. Jaffe stated that the alley serves 30 units and that once they rebuild Russell Street, the alley may not be usable at all. He stated that it was not optional, and they need to find a way to retain the easement. He asked what work was taking place there last week. Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, stated that it was a Mountain Water project, using stimulus funding to replace water mains in that area.

Mr. Childers asked how wide the easement was and if they could get around the building. Mr. King stated that it was a 20-foot easement and that it would be tight. The easement in hand now is not an improved alignment and the ditch might have to get a culvert to make it a more durable corner. Staff wants to have time to work with the district and not lose the opportunity. They need to have a back way onto Inez, especially as the Russell Street project goes forward.

Ms. Walzer stated that the alley access was terrible and asked if they could dead-end the alley and remove access to Russell Street when they redo Russell. Mr. King stated that they haven't gotten that far in the planning process. The

environmental documents are not that detailed. They will do field engineering at the time of project implementation, and survey, utilities, and the irrigation ditch will all go into reconstructions of the Russell and 3rd intersection. It will have impacts on the alley, and it is possible that re-grading the alley might be a possible solution with the Russell/3rd project. The flatter access seems like the more practical solution, but they have not resolved that. Ms. Walzer stated that the alley was an extra access onto Russell and was not desirable. Mr. King stated that it was the primary access for the parking areas for residents.

III. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion on the sizes of grease interceptors for the restaurant industry ([Grease Interceptor PowerPoint](#)) ([memo](#)).— Regular Agenda (Stacy Rye and Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 04/21/08)
2. Consider restructuring the city's Sewer Loan Program along the lines of the recently approved change to the Sidewalk & Curb Loan Fund.—Regular Agenda ([Chapter 3.16 – Sidewalk & Curb Loan](#)) ([Chapter 3.18 Sewer Loan](#)) ([Ordinance 3344](#)) (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 06/26/06)
3. Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and the County of Missoula related to the Reserve Street / Mullan Road Intersection Improvements Project. ([memo](#)) Regular Agenda (Gregg Wood) (Referred to committee: 01/11/10)
4. Review infrastructure conditions at the locations of serious and fatal traffic accidents: 2007-2009 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 01/25/10)
5. Discuss CMAQ program activities prior to grant application submittal to fund bike ped office activities ([memo](#)).— Regular Agenda (Phil Smith) (Referred to committee: 04/05/10)

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica S. Miller
Office Manager
City Public Works Department