



Minutes of the City Council Workshop

Monday, March 07, 2022

6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The City Council Workshop was called to order by Mayor Dana S. Hilliard. The following Council members were present: Councilors Pepin, Vincent, Austin, Michaud, Gerding, Cameron, and Messier.

Councilors Witham and Dumont were excused.

City Manager Bob Belmore, Finance Director Scott Smith, Public Works Director Michael Bobinsky, and City Clerk Jonathan Slaven were also present.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP – Presentation by BETA Group, Inc. Regarding Findings from a Comprehensive Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Study

Anthony Garro, Senior Vice President of BETA Group Inc., detailed a brief PowerPoint presentation. He spoke to the findings from a comprehensive study his company completed on the condition of the City's sidewalks and curb ramps which will give the City a foundation to make proactive decisions regarding repairs to their pedestrian walkways. Mr. Garro detailed the miles of sidewalks and showed Council various statistics on conditions, costs in current dollars to repair, and provided observations such as roots, cracking, poles, etc. He stated the City has roughly 20% concrete and 80% asphalt sidewalks, each that have their own benefits and detriments.

Councilor Vincent thanked Mr. Garro for his presentation and asked which material lasts longer. Mr. Garro stated asphalt is cheaper and more malleable, but has a shorter life (~15 years), while concrete is more expensive, but has a longer life (~50 years). Councilor Vincent asked if concrete was twice the price since it lasts more than twice as long as asphalt. Mr. Garro replied that it depends on the specific features of the sidewalk, but yes, roughly twice as much. Councilor Vincent also asked if BETA's study included any analysis on streets that have sidewalks on both sides and whether they were necessary and/or could be removed. Mr. Garro stated that is typically done when attempting to expand the road way and you have limited right of way for the additional road features, but that their analysis could include data that could provide information that would help make decisions on that issue.

Councilor Austin thanked Mr. Garro for his presentation and inquired if there was anything in the analysis that correlates the condition of sidewalks to the adjacent road. Mr. Garro stated his analysis does not include that, but informed Council that a report could be run that compares the road surface scores to the condition scores of the sidewalks.

Councilor Gerding asked in addition to asphalt costing less, are there other benefits to using asphalt for sidewalks instead of using concrete. Mr. Garro stated asphalt, while having a shorter overall lifespan, is able to bend to accommodate tree roots and is also much easier to spot repair. Mr. Garro added that a benefit of concrete in certain areas is that it brings a cleaner aesthetic, especially in downtown areas.

Mayor Hilliard thanked Mr. Garro for his presentation and announced Council would stand in recess until the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The City Council Workshop was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk