



Minutes of City Council Workshop
Presentation by Britt Eckstrom of
Wright-Pierce Engineering –
Constitutional Way Complete Streets Design
Monday, May 15, 2023 6:015 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

The City Council Workshop was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Mayor Dana Hilliard and the following Council members were present: Pepin, Vincent, Gibson, Austin, Michaud, Gerding, Cameron and Messier.

Councilor Witham was absent.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP – Presentation by Britt Eckstrom of Wright-Pierce Engineering – Constitutional Way Complete Streets Design

Britt Eckstrom introduced herself and Jake Chapman as Wright-Pierce Project Engineers. She began the Complete Streets Project presentation by discussing the project's summary and goals with her focus on Constitutional Way to include reconstruction of the roadway and sidewalks; improvement of safety features and streetscape, repair and replacement of water, sewer and stormwater utilities, and to incorporate more greenspace where it is deemed feasible. She added the installation of ornamental light poles to match High Street are part of the proposal. The Project Engineers conducted studies and utilized CCTV cameras for the utilities to gain information necessary to the project and its proposed design.

Ms. Eckstrom provided an overview of the existing measurements and conditions of the existing roadway and sidewalk along Constitutional Way. She continued to provide detail pertaining to the water and sewer utilities existing and aged cast iron and clay piping that has evidence of root intrusion in some locations.,. The current plan proposes that the water pipes be replaced with ductile iron main and the sewer pipes be replaced with PVC main piping. Additionally, it is proposed to move the sewer pipes into the roadway to allow for easier accessibility.

Ms. Eckstrom reviewed the existing stormwater system along Constitutional Way which currently discharges into the Somersworth Plaza system. The plan is to replace the pipes with larger HDPE main pipes, install new catch basins with sumps and reroute the discharge to the Washington Street system. Ms. Eckstrom provided an example of the proposal for stormwater treatment by installing tree box and media box filters along the sidewalk located trees.

Ms. Eckstrom provided an overview of the cost estimate at 60% opinion of construction cost and the design approximately 80% complete; for the roadway and drainage, sewers and water construction, the cost is estimated at \$1,326,000. Construction administration and inspection is estimated to cost an additional \$120,000 for a construction total of approximately \$1,450,000.

The proposed schedule has the Constitutional Way complete streets project 100% designed by June 2023. Consideration for the projects bidding is scheduled for late fall or early winter, an estimated project beginning date set for Spring, April or May and a project construction duration to take approximately 7 months.

Ms. Eckstrom concluded her presentation with opening up to questions or comments from the City Council regarding the proposed Constitutional Way complete streets design.

Councilor Gibson questioned the larger 9-foot sidewalk being opposite of the American Legion on Constitutional Way where he feels that there is more foot traffic and potentially a need for a larger sidewalk. City Manager Belmore commented that widening the west side of the sidewalk would allow for the utility poles to be off of the street and behind the curb. Ms. Eckstrom added that the west sidewalk that currently exists is larger than the east side.

Councilor Gibson asked if access to Citizen's bank, the Legion or other businesses will be restricted and what that may look like during the construction phase. Ms. Eckstrom assured the Council that although there may be times where access is limited for short periods of times during paving for instance, conversations with the contractors and business owners will take place in an effort to take into consideration their needs during the construction. She added that she expects that there will be at least one way access through much of the project's construction for accessibility.

Councilor Gibson asked that with the suggestion of bidding in the fall or early winter for the project, is there a cost escalator built into the estimated construction costs. Ms. Eckstrom stated that it is hard to say how bidding later in the year could affect the cost estimates but did confirm the budget does have some allowances. City Manager Belmore added that the timing to request bids has not been voted on by the full Council and is just simply a thought at this time.

Councilor Austin expressed some concern regarding the placement of one of the trees potentially impeding the line of sight for people leaving Shiva's Market. Ms. Eckstrom does not believe that any of the trees block the direct line of site for those pulling out of the parking lot and onto Constitutional Way and mentioned the placement of the tree needs to be where a catch basin is for the purpose of installing a tree box filter.

Councilor Gerding question what the reasoning for the stormwater discharge routing change to Washington Street is and if that system can easily handle the added flow. Ms. Eckstrom commented that during the design they looked into taking advantage of the accessibility and did a study that confirms the added flow could be handled.

Councilor Gerding asked for clarification on the 60% opinion of construction cost. Ms. Eckstrom stated that the 60% construction cost was provided at 60% of the completed design level of the project. She added that once the design is 100% finalized, she will then be able to provide an updated cost estimate for the complete project.

Councilor Messier questioned if the sewer clay pipes will be filled in and left in the ground. Ms. Eckstrom confirmed they would be filled and left underground. Councilor Messier commented that he believed the plan is a good one and likes the tree box filter feature.

The workshop adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk