

Council Study Committee
February 27, 2012
Minutes

Council Members Present: Chair Pam Pepper, Pete Berry, Greg Marchant, Eric Mathieu, John Sirianni, John Parker and Mayor Bresnan.

Staff Present: Jean Furler and Chuck Burgin

1. **Financial Items:** The committee considered options for the street replacement project assessments. Discussion continued from the last committee meeting about potentially changing the assessment from 50% to 30% as well as using franchise fees. Construction cost is estimated at \$2,500,000 and the related debt payment is approximately \$300,000 per year (over 10 years). An \$11.20 or \$11.30 rate could handle the debt however the balance of the debt service fund would obviously be depleted unless the levy is increased. Franchise fees could also be used to offset the debt service fund.

Chuck Burgin explained to the committee that a consensus should be reached in order to stay on schedule with engineering and legal compliance. If a consensus could not be reached, his recommendation was to delay the project until 2013.

Each committee member stated their preference for tax rate, franchise fees and street assessments. Several options were discussed and it was determined that the committee did not want to raise the tax rate, assess for streets and implement a gas franchise fee all in the same year.

Shirley Clark, 403 North "Y" Street spoke regarding street assessments. She indicated the council can always opt to lower or eliminate assessments when bids are received. She also voiced concern about political repercussions of eliminating street assessments.

The committee's consensus was to move forward with an \$11.20 tax rate, a 4% residential and 2% commercial gas franchise fee and no longer assess for street repaving projects.

2. **Discuss "C" Street Proposal:** Representatives from Simpson College attended the meeting to further discuss their proposal regarding North "C" Street. Mayor Bresnan asked for clarification regarding the proposal. John Byrd, Simpson College President indicated the request includes 1) re-pave "C" Street with pedestrian friendly amenities, 2) negotiate the sale of "C" Street with the city and 3) determine a future date of closure. He also indicated Simpson College would negotiate an amount to reimburse the city for expenses associated with re-paving when the street is closed.

Simpson College will hold a public input meeting at 7 pm on March 1, 2012 in the city council chambers to present their ideas and answer questions from the public. Mayor Bresnan will moderate the discussion and post an agenda for the meeting.

Residents have voiced concerns regarding the safety issue for Irving elementary students and bus drop-off/pick-up. It was indicated that traffic pattern and flows would need to be addressed prior to the closing of "C" Street. Questions were also raised regarding the \$690,000 cost to re-pave and add pedestrian friendly amenities to the street. It was discussed that the city did not want to pay to complete the project and then close it. President Byrd indicated the college would by and large reimburse the city for the cost of the project.

Discussion of the North "C" Street options will be placed on the March 5, 2012 council agenda.

Other Items:

- 1) Warren County is reviewing the courthouse building and grounds for possible aesthetic improvements.
- 2) Request for information from the Record Herald has been sent. Updates will be sent as more information becomes available.
- 3) A request for records was made by Darwin Curl and the city is complying.
- 4) Purchasing the former Mercy building is not under consideration at this time.

The committee adjourned at 8:01 p.m.