



**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2018; 7:00 PM**

Council Questions and Staff Response

Questions from Alderman Karen Schmidt:

Consent Agenda Item No. 7G: What section of Taylor Street is under consideration for this work?

Consent Agenda Item 7G: The sewer construction under consideration is between 1005 and 1027 West Taylor in the back yards. A further detailed map is included in the council packet for this item.

Item No. 7O: What might be a recommended budget amount for FY20 to make this vertical repair program feasible? If we spend \$80,000 in FY19 (if I read the packet correctly) optimally what should it be going forward?

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Public Works Director

Because of the cost effective alternative of sidewalk grinding under specific circumstances, staff does anticipate increasing the amount next fiscal year but no recommendations can be made at this time. Bloomington staff has continued to expand the sidewalk grinding contracts over the past fiscal years in accordance with the APWA award-winning Sidewalk Master Plan.

Question from Alderman Jamie Mathy

Consent Agenda Items 7E & 7F: I know we have access to the Illinois Joint Purchase & Sourcewell contracts, but I'm wondering when the last time we checked with local retailers who carry similar equipment? We have a local vendor preference ordinance I believe.

Could someone in Bloomington order us a Toro lawn mower? Seems like a pretty common brand. I'm sure we save some money, but that is taxpayer dollars leaving our community. How close are our local dealers to the same pricing? If it's within a few percent, I would be willing to spend more to keep the dollars local.

Staff Response: Jay Tetzloff, PCRA

MTI distributing is the central Illinois Commercial dealer for this size mower. Our local dealers are considered landscape or residential dealers and are not qualified to sell this size of mower. Toro has 3-4 different lines of mowers and most dealers can only sell certain sizes.

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Public Works Director

7F: The City of Bloomington uses multiple purchasing contracts including accepted cooperative organizations such as the Illinois Joint Purchasing Contract, Northwest Suburban Purchasing Cooperative Contract and the National Joint Powers Alliance. Each of the cooperatives competitively bid the described work and other entities can utilize the work they have done if their desired specifications match up. Bloomington uses these other joint bids whenever possible to save resources and utilize existing efforts of other entities. City staff is always looking for opportunities to leverage our local businesses whenever possible. Staff is not aware of this being an opportunity for a competitive local business at this time.

Question from Alderman Jamie Mathy

Consent Agenda Item 7O: Sidewalk Grinding: I would like to know how neighborhoods are being chosen for the grinding process.

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Public Works Director

Consent Agenda Item 7O: Sidewalk grinding operations are used whenever overall sidewalk conditions are serviceable and can be resolved by reducing the impact of a vertical difference in sidewalk panels. Currently, the grinding contract is used to supplement the sidewalk panel replacement contract and to deal with complaint areas. The City is in year four of ten in the Sidewalk Master Plan. In the next few years, the transition should take place where staff is able to proactively use a sidewalk grinding program to go into neighborhoods to deal with any sidewalk vertical areas of concern.

Question from Alderman Diana Hauman

Consent Agenda Item 7L: What might be included in the "estimated additional expense of \$5,500" for moving this control box? That is 25% of the entire project. The box was there when BHS erected its new sign over a year ago. Was the control box not taken into consideration when their plan was made? No need for an answer, just an observation.

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Public Works Director and Bob Mahrt, Community Development Director

The estimated additional expenses for the relocation of the traffic signal controller are intended to capture any unanticipated costs associated with this construction work in an effort to not come back for further City Council approval. Only costs incurred as part of the approved relocation will be eligible for reimbursement using TIF funds.

Question from Alderman Amelia Buragas

Consent Agenda Item 7K - Why wasn't this sent through the ZBA for consideration of a variance?
Staff Response: Bob Mahrt, Community Development Director and Katie Simpson, City Planner

Pursuant to 44.13-1E, the Zoning Board of Appeals is charged with reviewing and acting on decisions pertaining to Chapter 44 and Chapter 3 of the City Code (the Zoning Ordinance and Sign Code, respectively). The maximum and minimum driveway width requirements are in Chapter 38 of the City Code and in Illustration 4.06F of the Manual of Practice (Chapter 24).

Driveway requirements are typically found in the parking section of a zoning ordinance, but it seems Bloomington may be unique. Our zoning ordinance only addresses the minimum driveway approach width (44.7-2C3(b)2). Therefore because this maximum requirement is not addressed under the existing Zoning Ordinance, the Zoning Board of Appeals would not have jurisdiction to grant/deny a variance.

Nonetheless, we have discussed adding these requirements to the zoning ordinance during our update.