



Richland County
Development & Service
March 23, 2021 -5:00 PM
Zoom Meeting
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Chair, Derrek Pugh, Gretchen Barron, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Malinowski, Jesica Mackey, Michelle Onley, Leonardo Brown, Tamar Black, Angela Weathersby, Kyle Holsclaw, Ashiya Myers, Mike Zaprzalka, Mike Maloney, Clayton Voignier, John Thompson, Elizabeth McLean, Lori Thomas, Randy Pruitt, Stacey Hamm, Zachary Cavanaugh, Jani Hussain, Stephen Staley, Michael Byrd, Dante Roberts, Brittney Hoyle-Terry, Dale Welch, Lauren Hogan, Dwight Hanna, Geo Price, Bill Davis, and Brian Crooks

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Terracio called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. **Regular Session: February 23, 2021** – Mr. Pugh moved, seconded by Ms. English, approve the minutes as distributed.

In Favor: Pugh, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Barron moved, seconded by Ms. English to adopt the agenda as published.

Mr. Malinowski noted that on the agenda item 4(b) had the incorrect information included in the original agenda packet. The Clerk's Office provided the corrected briefing document prior to the meeting.

In Favor: Pugh, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

a. **Ordinance authorizing Quit-Claim deed of Olympia Alleyway to contiguous landowner (Hendley – 104 Alabama Street)** – Ms. Terracio moved, seconded by Mr. Pugh, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve an ordinance granting a quit-claim deed to Viola K. and J. Scott Hendley, who is the fee simple owner of the lot of land known as 104 Alabama Street (TMS#08816-02-15) by deed dated April 9, 1997 and filed in the Richland County RMC Office deed book 56, page 8011.

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Ms. Newton inquired why the owners of the contiguous property are requesting the deed.

Ms. Terracio stated she believes the landowner no longer wanted the alleyway as a part of the property.

Ms. McLean responded, in 1983, Council passed an ordinance regarding the Olympia alleyways. At the time, they were all platted, but they were never granted to anyone. They are not listed on anyone's deed, and are not listed as a County right-of-way. No one has the right or obligation to maintain them. In general, the ordinance says, if you ask the County will give you half of the right-of-way that connects to your property.

In Favor: Pugh, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Approval to proceed with the railroad crossing closure on Walter McCartha Road** – Mr. Brown stated, in the packet, the committee will find information associated with a railroad crossing that had some crashes that were concerning to the community. There are two (2) sections of railroad crossings. The section that is being requested to be closed is the section where there was a recent incident where three individuals were seriously injured and made the news. There have been State level concerns, as well as railroad and County conversations about this particular piece of land. The railroad crossing that does not have the best visibility, in terms of what you would generally expect at a railroad crossing. Included in the agenda packet, is a notice from the State Representative, as well as information from the railroad, and their willingness to close this railroad crossing, as well as providing funding to the County.

Mr. Maloney stated Lynn McCartha Road will remain open. This crossing is flat and you can see across the tracks, the trains, and other vehicles on the other side. Walter McCartha is loop that comes off of Lynn McCartha, goes over the tracks, and both connect to Hwy. 76. He noted he personally drove Walter McCartha, and when you drive up on the tracks you cannot see the road below. The railroad will take care of obliterating the piece of road that is between the railroad tracks and Hwy. 76, as well as the actual crossing. The County would clean up anything to create the loop.

Mr. Malinowski inquired, after the County fixes the area, where does the balance of the \$10,000 go.

Mr. Staley responded it will be up to Council, but they would like it to go to Public Works.

Ms. Barron move, seconded by Ms. Newton to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve proceeding with the closing of the railroad crossing on Walter McCartha Road.

Ms. Newton inquired as to the origin of this request.

Mr. Staley responded it originated from the CTC. The CTC received a lot of calls from concerned citizens, as well as the representative from the area.

Mr. Malinowski noted there was an accident where a train hit a vehicle, and it started the ball rolling for people to complain and wanting to have the crossing closed.

In Favor: Pugh, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

The motion in favor was unanimous.

- c. **Approval of Summit Ridge Drive Sidewalk Project** – Mr. Staley stated this is an area in the Northeast part of the County that is heavily traveled and populated. There is approximately 1,050 ft. of missing sidewalk connecting a lot of neighborhoods, schools, and parks. The County did a project in the area about three (3) years ago that brought some existing sidewalks into ADA compliance, and they noticed the need then. Based on the small amount of funding, it would make a big difference for that area. Of the seven (7) sidewalks that were received, this one rated the highest based on connectivity to schools, parks, and the amount of average daily traffic.

Ms. Newton inquired what will happen to the 2020 requests not that it is 2021. In addition, she requested staff to explain the funding source, specifically CTC, we are using for sidewalks, and the process for requesting sidewalks.

Mr. Staley responded to request a sidewalk the citizen would call the Ombudsman's Office, and they would direct the request to Public Works. Toward the end of January, Public Works begins their list. Near the end of the year the requests are evaluated and make a recommendation at the first Council meetings of the next year. The funding source they utilize is CTC funds. Tonight's request is to allow Public Works to go to the County Transportation Committee to request funding.

Ms. Newton stated she would like to see if there is a more proactive identification process for requesting sidewalks. She noted there are citizens that may not know the process, and there is a great demand for sidewalks.

Ms. Terracio inquired if staff could make the rating sheet public.

Mr. Staley responded this is public information. He offered to send the information to PIO.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if it makes a difference in the ratings if it was State or County-maintained road.

Mr. Staley responded in the affirmative. A County road receives more points.

Mr. Malinowski inquired what would happen if the CTC does not approve the grant.

Mr. Staley responded the Public Works budget could not withstand a sidewalk project, so it would be delayed until next year.

Ms. English inquired as to what portion the sidewalk is connecting.

Mr. Staley responded it connect Bombing Range Road to Palmetto Park.

Ms. English moved, seconded by Ms. Barron, to approve the Summit Ridge Drive Sidewalk Project so that County Staff can apply to the County Transportation Committee (CTC) for a "C" Construction Grant for funding design and construction.

Ms. Newton inquired what input the Planning staff provides when developing a community and planning sidewalks, so the community does not have to come back and request a sidewalk.

Mr. Voignier responded they generally review the site plans for compliance with the Land Development Code. As long as they are compliant, he does not believe there are requirements for sidewalk space.

Mr. Price stated as part of the site submittal process, and according to the Richland County Land Development Code, sidewalks are required. There are certain situations when due to non-connectivity with other sidewalks, they will get confirmation from SCDOT, if it is going to be on a State road, and also work with the Public Works Department to determine if sidewalks are warranted in a particular development.

In Favor: Pugh, Terracio, Barron, English and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED**

- a. **I move to evaluate affordable housing options to include the option of establishing an Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Richland County as a benefit to the public. Housing is considered to be "affordable" when 30% or less of one's income is spent on housing and utilities. In Richland County, nearly half of renters pay more than a third of their income on rent and utilities[Terracio]** – There was no update provided.
- b. **I move to direct the County Attorney to work with the County Administrator to research and draft an absentee landlord ordinance. The ordinance should provide potential remedies for individuals who violate county ordinances and provide, via supplemental documentation, a comprehensive review of the legal impacts [potentially] associated with the adoption of such an ordinance. [NEWTON and DICKERSON]** – There was no update provided.
- c. **Amend the County's current ordinance, in order to allow lighting on Broad River Road [DICKERSON]** – Ms. Terracio noted there was an update on this item in the agenda packet.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:31PM.