

STREETS/DRAINAGE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2023

Alderman Hamm called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm. He began with the recognition of attendees beginning with himself, Alderman Hamm, Alderman Lee, Alderman Knight, Alderman Morrow, Alderman Hart, John Richey, Tom Farmer, Alderwoman Reed, Alderwoman Spencer-Cole, Alderman Brown, Alderman Baptist. Alderman Hamm then asked for the committee to look over the minutes from the Dec 13, 2022 meeting. Alderman Morrow made the motion to approve and Alderman Knight making the second. With the motion to approve and the second Alderman Hamm asked for any discussion. Being none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

Alderman Hamm started with item number 4 on the agenda. He stated that he would turn it over to Mr. Richey, but before he did, he wanted to say that "starting in 2023, Steve Lee will be his sidekick, and I will try to involve him in everything that Mr. Richey and Virgil bring to me up to speed on. If I'm not here, hopefully he will be to answer any questions. But I want to encourage Steve to lean on Director Richey, and Virgil for the majority of the information because they stay up with it very, very well. And they are doing a great job, as well as everybody in the Street Department. So, at this time we'll move over to number 4 on the agenda, a resolution to partner with ARDot, for the I-30 ramp and frontage road improvements. I will turn this over to Mr. Richey at this time."

John Stated "as you can see here before you, you have a sample resolution that has been put together by ARDot, and we have an opportunity to work with them on a project that's underway on the I-30 ramp and frontage road improvements. What has been presented to us, and brought to us, us being me and the Mayor, Mr. Wiley with ARDot, came to us with the idea that if the city would take over Military Road, the part that is state highway and Alcoa Road, that they would wave the half million dollar shortfall that we have on the promise that we made to them that we would do for this I-30 ramp. I know ya'll remember us coming to ya'll getting a resolution done to help with 3 million dollars to help with that project, over 5 years. And we still had a half million dollar shortfall. So they have said, and it says in this resolution that they would overlay the road before they would do this transfer of ownership. So, that's what I am presenting to ya'll today." Alderman Morrow asked if he had calculated it out to see what the overlay would cost? John stated "we had calculated it out, Alcoa Road, and Military Road, it's roughly around \$750,000.00 worth of overlay that will be done to make that portion you know that just me figuring. Military from Walgreens to the Exxon at Alcoa, then you turn down Alcoa and go all the way to the Parkway. That is old Highway 88." Alderman Knight asked "that is the portion they are asking us to take over in lieu or in place of the half million is just that section from Walgreens to 88?" John stated "and to the Parkway". Alderman Knight stated, "and all the way to the Parkway." The mayor stated, "once they overlay it." Alderman Knight asked "so what are they going to do with the rest of Military from the Shell station to lower Military? Is it going to be overlaid?" John stated "that is city street and yes we are

planning to overlay it, and try to do it around the time they are doing it so it would be together." Alderman Knight replied "I see what you're saying so, highway 88 from Alcoa Road at Benton Parkway to Military, and take a left at the Shell station on and then a right on Carpenter is all state highway. Beyond that going toward lower Military is city." John replied "correct." Alderman Hart asked is there a thought on not wanting to do that the expense of that outweighs, I mean you are talking \$750,000.00, vs half million that we have to come up with for the exit. Do you think that's a." John stated "no they're gonna do it. They will pay for that and waive the half million." Alderman Hart said, "but the next time that has to be overlaid in like 10 years" John said, "20 years." Alderman Hart said "I guess I'm wondering do you think this is still the better deal? Instead of just putting," Mayor Farmer said "it gives us control of the whole road instead of just part of the road. The way it works with ARDot is if they own the road we have to get permission. We can't do anything with it. And so this would give us control of one of the most used roads in the entire city right now. The whole thing is well due for an overlay. I've got more compliments to the fact that we fixed the bumps, ya'll know what I'm talking about, they raised the man hole covers up. I have had more positive response on that so this would allow us to do everything without having to ask them." Alderman ??? stated that ARdot plans to come back at the junction of Military and Carpenter and overlay down East, and from East down Edison, to highway 35." John stated "they are going to start at the interstate and work up Carpenter, through the intersection there, down East in front of city hall, take a left on Edison and I don't know if they will go over the bridge, but they will get it almost to the traffic light." Mayor Farmer stated "they are supposed to start this in April." John said "I'll say they Mayor and me have been working on this talking about getting these roads overlaid through ARDot, asking them when they could do it and they told us this year." Alderman Knight asked "so this is also their concession to expedite the overlay, is we agree to take on those portions of state highway, they will waive the \$500,000.00 and expedite the overlay of Edison, East." Alderman Hart asked, "will this include sidewalks?" John stated "no." Alderman Hart asked "Just the curbs?" John stated "no, just the asphalt." Alderman Hamm stated "if I may just simplify this, they are basically going to pay for everything for the overlay which should last 20-25 years. So, we are looking at a major savings and I won't be here in 20-25 years. Hopefully the following council will have it within themselves to create their own game plan to deal with it at that time. This just resolves the fact that we don't have to come up with \$500,000.00 in exchange for a complete overlay." Alderman Lee said "this is the change in the on ramp to exit just east of Home Depot isn't it?" John stated "Yes sir." Alderman Lee asked, "will the state do the work?" John answered "yes, it will all be under their control. They have already done the engineering." Alderman Hart asked, "how far back will the exit be moved?" Mayor Farmer stated "about 2-1/2-3 miles somewhere in that vicinity. The next entrance to I-30 will be converted to exit off of I-30 going east." John stated "the one in front of Brown's will stay the same, right after Browns there will be another one added to get on the freeway, then the one past the Congo bridge will be converted to an off ramp. Then they will go down and do away with the one in front of Home Depot. There will be three lanes with a safety wall." Alderman Hart asked, "is there a time frame?" Mayor Farmer said "they are ready to put it out for bid, so

the answer to your question, they were wanting to wait until the I-30 project was completed, but they'd like that once it goes out to bid, in 6 mos." Alderman Knight asked "how long do you think it'd take John, to have the rest of Military, lower military overlaid, once they start overlaying 88 and Military?" John stated "all I can do is ask Cranford to overlay it, it would be on their time. I would try to do it at the same time." Alderman Knight asked "that would be the goal, to have everything uniform?" John said "I'll talk to them about when they're doing that one, to do it at the same time that way it will look the same. That's the plan." Alderman Knight stated "I'll tell you, to me, I travel Edison every day, multiple times, and if this is what it take to get that portion of that highway overlaid, and some of the drainage issues taken care of, especially in front of the Tobacco Store, and Big Red, it hard to say no." John said "I'd like to say that ARDot has worked on a lot of drainage along Alcoa, they have done some of the major intersections, at Desoto Place they took out those culverts and replaced them, they put in some arch and nice concrete, and worked on a lot of the stuff down through there in the last 4-5 years." Alderman Knight stated "So for 3 million we get overlays, roads fixed, a ramp that is more conducive to commercial development in that section of our city, for 3 million dollars." Mayor Farmer stated "well we have already approved the 3 million dollars." Alderman Knight said "I know, I'm just looking at the package deal, packaging this up. And our responsibility is to take over that portion of state highway for maintenance, and we get fresh overlay." Alderman Hamm asked for any other questions or concerns from the Council? At this time if we are all in agreement, I will entertain a motion to accept this resolution." Alderman Lee made the motion and Alderman Knight the second. Alderman Hamm stated "I have a motion and a second, any other discussion? I'll take a vote-motion carries. Moving on to item 5. Is there anything other thing that anyone from the council would like to discuss? Or questions? Hearing none I entertain adjourned. Alderman Brown stated "I'm sorry Mr. chair, I could get my button pushed fast enough. I just wanted to compliment Mr. Richey for some overlay they are doing on Oakbrook and Millbrook they got that done and knocked out really quickly and it looks fantastic. So great job guys." Alderman Hamm stated "Thanks for those comments, moving right along I have a motion and second to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.