

**TOWN OF YARROW POINT
COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES
April 21, 2014
7:00 PM**

The following is a summary of the proceedings and is *not* a verbatim transcript. The meeting is recorded, and the audio files are public record.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Dicker Cahill called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT:

Mayor: Dicker Cahill

Councilmembers: Bruce Jones
Mary Elmore
Steve Bush
Andy Valaas
Carl Scandella

Staff: Anastasiya Warhol – Town Clerk-Treasurer
Stacia Schroeder – Town Engineer

STUDY SESSION BUSINESS:

AB SS-01 Council Priorities: Utility Undergrounding and Pathway Extension

Mayor Cahill thanked everyone for attending and explained that the goal of the study session is to discuss the Pathway Extension project that the Council has unanimously supported. As it stands, the current pathway material is deteriorating; the Staff is researching different types of material for the project. For funding, the Town will pursue a loan from the Public Works Trust Fund. All franchise agreements need to be reviewed in order to determine if the costs can be dispersed.

Councilmember Scandella noted that it is critical to figure out both how much this will cost *and* how the town will pay for the project.

Town Engineer Stacia Schroeder addressed the Council. She distributed the following items to the Council:

- A color exhibit submitted by Andy Swayne from PSE showing exactly which lines are overhead and which lines in Yarrow Point have been undergrounded

- An Estimated Budget Schedule for the Pathway extension, the preliminary numbers totaling \$970,000 (including design, permitting, project management, construction costs, and contingency costs).
- UGC Project Comparison outlining various Town Projects, project depth and potential costs
- Exhibits from the town Trails Master Plan outlining trail pavement options and trail alignment options.

Engineer Stacia Schroeder explained that we have single-phase and three-phase lines in Yarrow Point. Single-phase lines are the least complex and therefore least expensive, three-phase lines being most complex/expensive. The colored map indicates that we are focusing on the lines on 92nd Avenue. In order to underground even one pole, we must coordinate with at least seven (7) separate agencies. This includes, power, gas, water, sewer, telephone, cable, and street light utilities.

There are several mechanisms the town can use to complete this project. The Town can include this project as part of the Transportation Improvement Plan. In this scenario, the Town would cover 100% of associated costs. The Town can also attempt to create a Local Improvement District (LID) where private residents can invest in their own improvements. So far, Clyde Hill has a proven working model of an LID. Puget Sound Energy, our street light utility, will also bear some financial burden under Schedule 74. It must be noted that the contribution will be minimal. The ultimate goal is to share the costs with all constituents, and franchise owners.

The Trails Master Plan (TMP) provides a great outline of where to begin. Based on the Council approved TMP, the pathway extension is labeled as a project of highest priority. The Council will need to decide whether or not the path should continue along the west side, or to cross the pathway east side of 92nd Avenue. Placing the trail on the east side will be less expensive; there will be little tree removal, more room to work, and no conflict with existing poles. The TMP states:

“The first option leaves the street in the existing alignment and requires retaining walls and possibly guardrails to create a safe, usable trail. Existing driveway connections would need to be reconstructed. The second option, the preferred option proposes shifting the street to the east. This allows the trail to be built in the alignment of the existing street, minimizing disruption of the existing grades and driveway connections. The east side of 92nd Avenue is flush with the road surface and would not require excessive grading or extensive walls. This work would most likely be accomplished with the undergrounding of the existing utility lines.”

– Trails Master Plan, Town of Yarrow Point, 2013

Stacia Shroeder reiterated that one option does include a road reconstruction. According to the preliminary plan presented, the work would begin between 41st and 42nd street and it would end at 47th (~1,500 LF), near the fountain. This would mean that there would need to be approximately 13 new street lights at \$7,500 apiece. In the pathway vicinity, there are 34 adjacent property owners. Of the properties that still have overhead utilities, only three (3) are on the west and seven (7) are on the east side of the path. Each homeowner will be responsible for helping underground the service lines outside the Town right-of-way at approximately \$5,000 per household. State Law dictates that they have ninety (90) days when underground power becomes available to comply.

The draft budget shows that the undergrounding and pathway extension is an 18 month process. This includes preliminary design, collaboration with partners, and the pathway extension on the west side. Knowing this information, the Town will be applying for a loan from the Public Works Trust Fund.

Councilmember Valaas mentioned that it may be more practical to use concrete during construction rather than existing pathway material (It took a long time to settle.)

Councilmember Steve Bush asked if there is currently enough electrical power coming into the point. Engineer Schroeder mentioned that Andy Swayne from Puget Sound Energy would be better equipped to answer that question.

There was consensus among the Council in the following matters:

The Town has completely paid off the initial pathway loan and the economy is improving, therefore this may be a good time to pursue the project. The Council would like to see the path on the west side. Staff should pursue the Public Works Trust Fund low-interest loan and as a contingency, research more conventional funding options. Staff should update the preliminary budget to reflect the discussion and any further detail. Staff should begin process of analyzing franchise agreements.

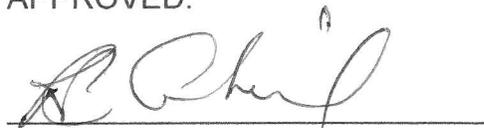
Council thanked Engineer Stacia Schroder for all work done thus far and Mayor Cahill for initiating a study session. Council will continue to meet regularly to discuss progress.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Councilmember Jones moved to adjourn meeting at 9:04 PM. Councilmember Elmore seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

APPROVED:



Dicker Cahill, Mayor

ATTEST:


Anastasiya Warhol, Clerk-Treasurer