

## Public Services Committee Meeting September 16, 2015

The Public Services Committee met Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers. Present were Committee Members Jerry Partridge, John Hollowell and Susanne Galbraith. Councilperson Duane Andrews was excused. Also present was Utility Works Director Scott Gray and Committee Recorder/City Clerk Lorrie Pearce.

Committee Member Partridge called the meeting to order.

### 1. First Interstate Bank: Building Site Plans on Haynes Avenue

**\*\*** *Committee Member Galbraith moved to recommend to Council approval of the street access plan. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Partridge.*

First Interstate Vice President of Corporate Real Estate Stephen Nesterak explained the process of building the new branch on Haynes Avenue:

- Land was bought this past spring
- Working with Miles Community College and adjoining neighbors to build a road to where everyone would have access to it
- Submitted a request to the Department of Transportation for approval of a new curb cut to grant wider easement. Request was submitted last week and will take approximately 30 days for an approval
- Created an alignment for a suitable access street for Miles Community College and the bank
- 60 foot wide easement on Southside was the long term goal of the College, but the land was purchased by someone else
- 400 feet is the length of the road that First Interstate would build and then be dedicated to the City upon completion

**\*\*** *Committee Member Galbraith moved to recommend to Council approval of the street access plan. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Partridge.*

Committee Member Hollowell asked if there was going to be parking on the street. Representative Nesterak said that there will be no parking on the street.

Director Gray said that he liked the plan and the 60 foot easement would allow for a wide enough street for access and the drainage ditch would help with water and snow removal problems. The road will bring traffic right into the College and the City would be able to receive extra gas tax revenue for the street. He also mentioned that there will be an increase of traffic, and though the College would be acceptable to it.

Director Gray added that the Council cannot accept the street until the Platt is approved.

*\*\* Motion then passed unanimously.*

## **2. Closure of Bridge Street:**

County Commissioner Jason Strouf asked the City to permanently close one block of Bridge Street where it intersects with 10<sup>th</sup> street and over to 11<sup>th</sup> street. The reasons are the following:

- Negative to business impact
- Taking spaces for surrounding business's and Courthouse
- Safety for the Senior Citizens at the Drop in Center when traveling from their vehicle to the center. He said the traffic coming around the corner is a hazardous situation, and also the traffic exiting the law center on the south side would be backing into the street area as an exit
- Could create 55 parking spot, with the intent of Courthouse employees parking there

Committee Member Hollowell thought it would help free up the parking around the Courthouse, but would miss using the street.

Committee Member Partridge said if the closure is for the safety of elders, then is the City and County going to close all streets for safety purposes.

County Commissioner Kevin Krausz said that there is a 10 mile an hour speed limit, but no one abides by it. He thought that was a safety hazard for the senior citizens crossing the streets.

County Commissioner Keith Holmlund added that the gravel road would stay open.

Committee Member Galbraith said that she would support the closure at this time and let Council decide.

Director Gray said that the 10 mile per hour speed limit was established for a reason and needs to be enforced. He added that the cut across road could be taken away at any time, and closing the road would cause three more turns for drivers coming from Bridge Street going to North Montana. He said every time that a turn is added, you add the increase of an accident.

*\*\* Committee Member Galbraith moved to recommend to Council approval of the closure of Bridge Street. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Hollowell. The motion passed 2-1, with Committee Member Partridge voting no.*


## **3. REQUEST OF CITIZENS/PUBLIC COMMENT:**

-None.

## ADJOURNMENT

\*\* Having no further business, *Committee Member Galbraith moved to adjourn, seconded by Committee Member Hollowell and passed unanimously, 3-0.* The meeting was adjourned at 6:25+ p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Jerry Partridge, Chairperson

  
Lorrie Pearce, Recorder