

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
October 24, 2017

PRESENT: Chairperson Mixon, Members Randolph, Hegy, Carroll
ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Volkert, City Engineer Schall

Call to Order – Chairperson Mixon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers of Hartford City Hall, 109 North Main Street.

Roll Call – All members of the Committee were present.

Public Comment Period – Christa and Dean Goddard, 301 East Lincoln Avenue, appeared and spoke about water drainage issues in their backyard during rainfalls and snow melt. They noted that their sump pump is running almost constantly.

2017 Construction Projects – City Engineer Schall provided an update on the 2017 construction projects.

2018 Garbage and Recycling Brochure – The proposed 2018 garbage and recycling brochure which will be mailed to 1-4 family residents in December was reviewed. There are no changes from the previous year.

Snowplowing/Salting Procedures – The snowplowing/salting procedures for the City of Hartford were reviewed. The City maintains approximately 88 miles of streets including connecting highways. There are many City parking lots from which snow must be removed. In addition, the City maintains approximately 2-½ miles of sidewalks and one mile of alleys. The Hartford Municipal Airport is plowed after the City streets are completed.

East Lincoln Avenue Backyard Drainage Issues – Several property owners along the south side of East Lincoln Avenue have voiced concerns with the storm water drainage through the backyard areas. There is a storm drain at the east end of this backyard area near Grand Avenue that is meant to drain the water from the backyards. However, over time, it appears the backyard grading has changed and the water does not have a direct path to the storm drain near Grand Avenue. During heavy rains the water will back up at several locations before flowing to the storm drain. The property owners have also mentioned the storm drain does not appear large enough to handle all of the water that drains to it. After reviewing the area, it was determined there are several possibilities to alleviate the drainage issues. Each solution does have some drawbacks.

1. The backyards could be regraded to direct the flow to the existing storm drain near Grand Avenue. This will require extensive disturbance to a large area of the backyards and any existing landscaping. This will require the cooperation of all the affected property owners. There is also the question of whether the existing storm drain is large enough to handle the water from the backyards.
2. Additional storm drains could be added in the backyards to catch some of the water that does not make it to the existing drain. This will require extending storm sewer pipes

from East Lincoln Avenue between houses to the backyards. During the design for the reconstruction of East Lincoln Avenue it was determined the elevation of the storm sewer in the street was deep enough to allow pipes to be extended to the backyards. During the construction new pipes were stubbed out of the storm sewer to the back of the sidewalk at 2 locations for this future use if needed. Extending these pipes between the houses could be a little tricky due to the depth of the pipes and the proximity of the adjacent houses. There is also no guarantee that all of the backyard water will make it to these new drains if installed.

3. A combination of Options 1 & 2 would provide enough capacity for the backyard drainage and ensure the water would flow to one of the several storm drains. This option would have all of the same concerns and drawbacks of Options 1 & 2.

During the construction of the East Lincoln Avenue storm sewer, several new storm water laterals were installed along the project. These will allow the property owners to connect their sump pumps directly to the storm sewer pipe and keep that water out of the yards and off the sidewalk. The last issue for all these options is who should proceed with implementing the solution. The property owners have requested help to alleviate the drainage issues which are located on private property. The City Engineer believes that the City has done all it can by providing new storm sewer lateral connections for sump pumps and providing two possible connection points for future backyard drains. The question is whether any future work towards implementing a solution should be completed by the property owners. The City Engineer does not believe it is in the best interest of the City to be involved in private property drainage issues. City Engineer Schall has met with many property owners to review drainage concerns and has given them some ideas for solutions, but has never authorized installation of any storm drains utilizing City funds on private property.

Staff is recommending that any further work to solve this backyard drainage issue at East Lincoln Avenue be undertaken by the property owners, and any future drainage issues on private property be handled in this same manner. The City will review the situations with the property owners, may provide some possible solutions, and may assist when possible with public spaces.

The Committee reviewed the drainage issues and discussed possible options; City Engineer Schall responded to questions. It was felt that the City has done everything it can and probably should do to help alleviate the drainage issues, and that the homeowners should take advantage of the connection points provided. City Engineer Schall will communicate with the affected property owners as to the Committee's discussion and some of the options available to them.

2018 City Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Program – City Engineer Schall provided information on the sidewalks marked for repair/replacement as part of the 2018 Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Program, and responded to questions. It is necessary to obtain approval from the Public Works Committee to send notices to property owners requiring homeowners to repair the defective sidewalk. It will be the property owners' responsibility to complete the required sidewalk repairs or replacement and to pay the associated costs. If any property owner fails to complete

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the sidewalk repairs or replacement as ordered, the City's contractor will complete the sidewalk replacement at the City's request and the City will bill the property owner for the actual costs. Final cost is unknown at this time until the total square feet of sidewalk is determined. \$129,000 is included in the 2018 CIP budget for the sidewalk program.

MOTION by Alderperson Randolph, and seconded by Alderperson Carroll approving an Order of the Public Works Committee requiring that any sidewalk which is unsafe, defective, or insufficient be repaired or replaced at the locations listed, and authorizing appropriate City officials to execute the Order. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjournment – MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, and seconded by Alderperson Randolph for adjournment. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

LH:pb
PW OCT24.17
Compiled by Pat Borlen, Deputy Clerk