

City of Montgomery
Public Works Committee Meeting
December 9, 2024

Staff Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

Council Committee Members Present

Craig Margolis, Chair
Chris Dobrozsi
Lee Ann Bissmeyer

The Public Works Committee of Council convened its meeting for December 9, 2024 at 4:32 p.m. with Mr. Margolis presiding.

Sidewalk Discussion

Mr. Heitkamp explained that Forestglen Drive sidewalk installation was budgeted in the 2025 budget for \$250,000. He explained that he has worked with CT Consultants to inspect the section of Forestglen from Montgomery to Woodfern to install a 5' wide sidewalk. He stated that the section of sidewalk is approximately 2,100 feet in length and sets back approximately 4.5 feet from the road. He explained that if there is an obstacle, such as a hydrant or mailbox, the sidewalk would jog towards the curb then transition back to assure clear distance. Mr. Heitkamp distributed engineer drawings of the sidewalk illustrated on both the south and north side of Forestglen. He explained that he would need direction from administration and the Committee as to which side to place the sidewalks. He added that both sides have an equal amount of right of way access, the number of driveways, 19 in total, and utilities to work with. He explained that the electric lines were underground in the homes affected. He recommended the north side of the street for the sidewalk installation.

Mrs. Bissmeyer asked how the north side was better for the installation of the sidewalks.

Mr. Heitkamp explained that based on the grade of the sidewalks at 9891-9929 on the south side being steeper, it would be more challenging to add the sidewalks and reconstruct the apron and approach to the driveways. He stated that it would also be difficult to meet ADA requirements. He stated that while the north side has a few driveways, 9938-9946, that are slightly steep they are not as steep as the south side.

Mr. Heitkamp added that for connectivity to the rest of the subdivision, Woodfern is on the north side of Forestglen and would be a seamless connection. He explained that if the sidewalks were installed on the south side a crosswalk would have to be installed.

Mr. Heitkamp stated that if there were to be a second phase, the north side is the better option.

Mr. Dobrozsi stated that he felt the south side of the street was not as safe.

Mr. Jared Bowen of CT Consultants joined the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

There were several residents in the audience from the Forestglen subdivision. They stated that the common thought was in support of installing the sidewalk on the north side of Forestglen road. A resident explained that there is not a stop sign when you turn on to Woodfern and

that is an area where there is more activity since it is a bus stop. She stated that she and the residents would like to see a stop sign installed there.

Another resident asked what the responsibility would be for the residents whose driveway would be affected by the installation.

Mr. Heitkamp replied that the city would cover the cost of replacing the apron and driveway that was affected by construction with the same type of materials. Mr. Riblet added that it is unusual for a city to cover those expenses as that is normally assessed to the property owner's taxes, but it is the city's practice to cover the cost.

Mr. Riblet asked the residents if the homeowners are all in favor of the installation being on the north side as there have been prior projects where the property owners do not always agree, and it kills a project.

The residents replied that the majority are in favor of the sidewalks.

A resident asked if there must be 100% agreement.

Mr. Riblet replied that it did not have to be, but it was preferred.

Mrs. Bissmeyer asked how many houses were located on Woodfern to get through the curve.

A resident replied there were 9 properties on the section of Woodfern that are in the curve.

Mr. Riblet asked Mr. Heitkamp if he felt based on the engineers' drawings and estimates the project would be on track with the amount budgeted.

Mr. Heitkamp replied that it depends on the bids and the amount of work that needs to be done to reconstruct the sidewalks. He stated he felt it was in the ballpark of the \$250,000 budgeted.

Mr. Margolis asked when the anticipated bid date would be.

Mr. Heitkamp replied that as the north side of the road was determined to be the location of the sidewalks that CT Consultants would work on the final design and survey to be done by February. He stated that he felt it could be advertised in late February with a bid opening in March. He explained that if the bid came in within budget he would submit for the proposed contract to be on the April business session agenda. He stated that as long the bid amounts came in under budget, he felt the project could begin in early April and be complete in early summer. He stated he thought the project would only take two months to complete.

Other Business

Mr. Riblet explained that a resident reached out to a Council Member regarding installing sidewalks on Deer Shadow Lane, off Deerfield Road. He explained that the request was forwarded to him as well as a petition from property owners in support of a sidewalk. He explained that if the Committee is favorable, staff could research the installation of sidewalks and put a placeholder in the 2026 budget.

The Committee advised Mr. Riblet and Mr. Heitkamp to proceed with researching the installation of sidewalks on Deersshadow Lane.

Minutes

Mr. Dobrozsi moved to approve the January 8, 2024 Public Works Committee minutes. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Adjournment

Mrs. Bissmeyer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dobrozsi seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm


Chair