

City of Albion
Study Session Minutes
December 16, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Atchison opened the study session at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Lenn Reid (2), Al Smith (3), Marcola Lawler (4), Jeanette Spicer (5), Shane Williamson (6) and Mayor Atchison.

ABSENT: Vicky Clark (1)

STAFF PRESENT:

Darwin McClary, City Manager; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Tom Mead, Finance Director; Haley Snyder, Interim Assistant City Manager/Deputy Clerk/Treasurer; Scott Kipp, Chief Public Safety; Kent Phillips, Interim Public Services Director and John Tracy, Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement.

IV. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Sidewalk Fund

Interim Director of Public Services Phillips gave a brief overview of the \$50.00 sidewalk assessment on all properties located in the City. The sidewalk program began in 2008 for a ten-year assessment. About a million and a half dollars was collected in the ten years. Many projects were completed using this fund the first seven years of the program. Currently, we have about \$450,000 remaining and would like Council direction as to how the remaining funds should be spent. There are still many sidewalks and crosswalks that need to be repaired in the City, the Department of Public Services has repaired some small sections that did not need to be contracted out.

There are three hundred and nineteen (319) non-ADA compliant crosswalks throughout the City. The cost for making them ADA compliant would be approximately \$1,000 per crosswalk. The City also has approximately \$94,000 in Act 51 funding that must be spent on non-motorized items, such as sidewalks and signs.

The total cost for the sidewalk around Holland Park is approximately \$164,000 with the breakdown as follows:

\$14,300 Design Engineering
\$75,000 75 yards concrete
\$75,000 Contractors labor & mark up

City Attorney Harkness stated he has provided Council two opinions, one in 2014 and the other in 2015 on the assessment. He stated the assessment was levied incorrectly, therefore, the funds remaining were left in the account awaiting further direction from the Council on how the funds should be disbursed. Properties that are assessed must derive a direct benefit from the assessment. Most municipalities set up a special assessment district.

Council Member Lawler stated she would like the funds split between each of the six (6) precincts.

City Manager McClary stated we must use a fair, uniform and consistent manner in which to expend the funds. He recommends fixing the crosswalks and using the remaining funds for sidewalks around public facilities that would benefit the general public.

The Council consensus is to create a work group with a member chosen by each Council Member from their precinct as members.

City Manager McClary stated at the 1st meeting in January, Council will create the committee, define the work product, duties and term of the committee. The committee will then make a recommendation to the Council of the projects to be completed, timeframe and cost. Future funding for sidewalks will be part of the Capital Improvement Plan that will be presented to Council in October, 2020.

Additional comments were received from Council Members Spicer, Williamson, Reid and Smith and Mayor Atchison.

- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS-(Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required).

Comments were received from Lavada Weeks, 917 Luther Dr.

- VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT-None

- VII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

No Mayor and Council Member comments were received.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Spicer moved, Williamson supported, CARRIED, to adjourn the study session.
(6-0, vv)

Mayor Atchison adjourned the Study Session at 6:55 p.m.

Date

Jill Domingo
City Clerk