

Street Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
January 28, 2014
City of Newark, Ohio

Monday January 27, 2014 the Street Committee met in Council Chambers following a meeting of the Finance Committee. These members were in attendance:

Curtis Johnson, Chair	Alex Rolletta
Dee Hall	Jeremy Blake
Carol Floyd	Doug Marmie
Jeff Rath	

We wish to report:

1. Proposed alley and street vacations for LC Library, Cambria St, Dickerson St, Eddy St and Valley St were discussed.

Brian Morehead- I have before you 5 different locations that citizens have requested either alley or street vacations and about 3:00 today we got comments from the Fire Department regarding their requests. It looks like three of them they had no objections to and two of them they did. Backing up a little bit when a street or alley vacation comes to our office previously we would create a petition, create a piece of legislation, I would write a legal description all of this taking 2-3 hours a piece for each of these requests. I have a stack of them up there now that I put the time in and then we come to Committee and if the Fire Department was not in favor of it the Committee would vote against it and the whole process came to a screeching halt. Rather than do that I decided let's ask up front if any of the City Departments or anybody has any objections to this before we get started into the paperwork part of it. So that is where we are here at the very beginning of it. If you don't mind I will just go through the first couple of ones, the easy ones. If you are in favor of moving these forward I would create the legislation which is a resolution of intent to vacate each individual one of these and come back to Committee in two weeks with them or I can come back then and discuss them more. Those are your options.

Eddy St- I didn't get any comments from anyone but the Fire Department and they stated that it was ok to grant that section.

Valley St- was a similar situation, Valley St went into an alley that is about half an alley, a portion of it was previously vacated in 1800's and there is a 5 foot section that remains there. The Fire Department didn't have any objection to that.

Mr. Blake- asked what the different colored lines on the pictures meant.

Brian Morehead- the area outline in red heavy red with the cross hatch design in it is the alley that we are talking about. The other red you see on there is a sanitary sewer line sanitation line, the green lines are storm sewer lines and the blue lines are water lines. This is all part of our geographic information system that we have.

Cambria St- there were no objections to it, it has a heavy black outline. The property owner at 230 Cambria St is trying to refinance his property and the garage that was previously built on the

property was built in the alley way. To clear up his title and so forth he has requested that alley be vacated. If you could see the alley in real life you can tell that there has never been any pavement out there, trees are going up in it, there are fences in it and of course a portion of his garage is in it. It exists as an alley only on paper.

Mrs. Floyd- what do you want us to do vote on each one of these individually, the Law Director says it will have to come back to Committee without a specific pieced of legislation? So can we say that we want you to write up a piece of legislation then?

Mr. Marmie- it would appear to me that the 3 that the Fire Department supports would be worth your time and the Council would more than likely approve those.

Mr. Guthrie- I want to thank Brian for the way that he handled it and I spoke to the Chief this afternoon and he basically admitted that they didn't follow up in the manner maybe that they should have. What I think that it sort of points to is maybe the responsibility of maybe getting Fire Department on this has to be on more than just Brian. I don't know if this was isolated the Chief did mention one situation on Wildwood or Willwood there off of Granville that they had expressed concern about and Council approved it anyhow. I don't think that this had any bearing on them not doing this as quickly as they should but I do think that it points to a process break down that maybe we can work with Brian and Bill and the Chief to try to resolve.

Brian Morehead- so I will come back to you in two weeks with pieces of legislation for three of these. Dickerson St and the Library the Fire Department did not feel as though they should be vacated and because these were both requested by the adjacent property owners I think that we would like to go back and talk with them and meet with the Fire Department to see if there is a compromise or something else that could be done there. So I think that it would be best not to take any action on those tonight. If we have any progress on those two then we can discuss them at the next meeting.

Mrs. Floyd- the Library one it's really long and looks to me like the part at the bottom of the sheets goes through the parking lot. Is that what that is doing?

Brian Morehead- yes actually that was part of Market Street back many years ago before that parking lot and about the time the Library was being built. We worked with the Community Development Department to build that parking lot at the rear of the Library. Market and Canal used to run parallel through there and they both had an approach to South Fifth Street. Now as you are traveling from west to east Market and Canal join together into a two way street which is called Canal Street. Really back when that parking lot was built that section of Market Street that the parking lot is now on should have been vacated back then.

Mr. Marmie- I think that even the Chief said that portion of it they had no issue with it. I would think that if nothing else with the Library that portion could be vacated even if the other can't be rectified. The Library owns both properties correct?

Brian Morehead- yes

Mr. Marmie- if it was different property owners then you would be splitting the Library's' land in half

Mr. Rath- can you explain to me the logic behind the objection regarding Dickerson Street it is a small section of an alley that is in the middle of a developing parking lot and he made reference to a new house being built in the area and I wasn't aware a house was being built where is that being built?

Brian Morehead- showed Mr. Rath on one of the pictures where a house is being built on an empty lot that Doctor Wing's son owns. We aren't asking for the alley in front of the house to be vacated it is the one in the rear

Mr. Rath- which is going to be parking lot

Brian Morehead- exactly

Mr. Rath- which should grant ample access to fire trucks and EMS

Brian Morehead- correct, I haven't talked to the Fire Department I saw this email late today. I think that we need to go through it with them too so that they understand what is going on. Maybe there is a resolution there.

There is one other thing but it pertains to those of you on the Service Committee, it is regarding an ODOT piece of legislation. Mr. Guthrie is always asking me when I get these about it being an emergency. I got it too late to get it on this agenda, I want to get it on this next agenda and we will need to move it along quickly. It is a resolution to proceed to cooperate with ODOT in replacing the traffic signal at Dayton Rd and State Route 16. There is some ODOT safety funding involved with it our share of the project is going to be about \$10,800.00. The cost of the project is way more than that. You will be seeing that in two weeks but it will have to move forward at the following Council meeting.

Mr. Marmie- I will be happy to support that because I drove through that intersection all the time. I look both ways even when I have a green light and I try to say a prayer before I head through. It is one of the scariest intersections and one that there have been so many fatalities.

Chair, Curtis Johnson