

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: October 16, 2008
CALLED TO ORDER: 5:31 p.m.
ADJOURNED: 5:46 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Benjamin Hunter, Chair
Ginny Cain
Dane Mahern
Angela Mansfield
Mary Moriarty Adams
Janice McHenry
Cherrish Pryor
Christine Scales

ABSENT MEMBERS

Mike Speedy

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 461, 2008- appoints Kelly L. Russell to the Air Pollution Control Board
"Postponed" until November 13, 2008 Vote 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 463, 2008- authorizes changes in parking restrictions at various locations in the downtown area for security reasons
"Do Pass" Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 464, 2008- authorizes speed limit changes within the Salem Creek subdivision (District 13)
"Do Pass" Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 465, 2008- authorizes intersection controls in The Groves of Camby Village, sections 1 and 2 (District 22)
"Do Pass" Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 466, 2008- authorizes intersection controls in the Richmond Hill subdivision, sections 1 and 2 (District 24)
"Do Pass" Vote 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 467, 2008- authorizes intersection controls in the Feather Trace subdivision (District 25)
"Do Pass"

Vote 8-0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, October 16, 2008. Chairman Benjamin Hunter called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. with the following members present: Ginny Cain, Dane Mahern, Angela Mansfield, Janice McHenry, Cherrish Pryor, and Christine Scales. Mary Moriarty Adams arrived shortly thereafter, and Mike Speedy was absent. Also in attendance was Councillor Robert Lutz.

PROPOSAL NO. 461, 2008- appoints Kelly L. Russell to the Air Pollution Control Board

Chair Hunter said due to a scheduling conflict Kelly Russell could not attend tonight's meeting. Councillor Cain moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern to "Postpone" Proposal No. 461, 2008 until November 13, 2008. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

{Clerks Note: Councillor Moriarty Adams arrived at 5:32 p.m.}

PROPOSAL NO. 463, 2008- authorizes changes in parking restrictions at various locations in the downtown area for security reasons

Nathan Sheets, Senior Project Manager, Department of Public Works (DPW), said this proposal permanently removes several downtown parking meters. He said some of the meters have been bagged since 1997. He said they are removing meters from approximately four locations. Some of the meters are in front of Conseco Fieldhouse, on the west side of Pennsylvania Street in front of the federal building; two meters are on Ohio Street in front of the courthouse, between Meridian Street and Pennsylvania Street; and on Capitol Street in front of the statehouse. He said John Ball, Director of Emergency Management, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), requested a review of these meters, and that DPW is requesting the removal of these meters.

Councillor Mahern said he supports the removal of the meters. He said he receives numerous constituent complaints stating that the meters should be removed if they are not going to be used. Councillor Mansfield said she thought the meters had already been removed from Pennsylvania Street. Mr. Sheets said the meters have been removed from the east side of the street.

Councillor McHenry asked if the curbs will be painted yellow once the meters are removed. Mr. Sheets said, typically they try to avoid painting the curbs yellow, but they will make sure they install the necessary signs indicating that there is no parking.

Councillor Moriarty moved, seconded by Councillor Mansfield to send Proposal No. 463, 2008, to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

Chair Hunter asked for consent take Proposal Nos. 464-467, 2008 together. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 464, 2008- authorizes speed limit changes within the Salem Creek subdivision (District 13)

PROPOSAL NO. 465, 2008- authorizes intersection controls in The Groves of Camby Village, sections 1 and 2 (District 22)

PROPOSAL NO. 466, 2008- authorizes intersection controls in the Richmond Hill subdivision, sections 1 and 2 (District 24)

PROPOSAL NO. 467, 2008- authorizes intersection controls in the Feather Trace subdivision (District 25)

Chair Hunter introduced Councillor Lutz. Councillor Lutz said he is sponsoring Proposal No. 464, 2008 at the request of the Salem Creek Homeowner's Association president. He said a speed limit reduction from 30 miles per hour (mph) to 25 mph is being requested for every street in the subdivision, except Concert Way and Concert Lane. He said he is asking for the speed limit to be reduced to 20 mph on those two streets, because there is a nearby swimming pool and the streets are not very wide. He presented a photograph (attached as 'Exhibit A') showing the streets and the swimming pool. Councillor Lutz said, due to the number of children playing, there is a safety issue. He said this concern was discussed at a neighborhood association meeting in August.

Councillor Mahern asked if a vote was taken at the neighborhood association meeting. Councillor Lutz answered in the negative. He said no one at the meeting objected to lowering the speed limit. Councillor Mahern asked how many houses are in the subdivision. Councillor Lutz said there are quite a few homes, and approximately ten streets in the subdivision. He said there is no main thoroughfare. The people that use the streets are mainly people that reside there.

Councillor Mansfield said she does not have a problem with reducing the speed limit, but the main problem is enforcement. She said she would like to make a point to the constituents that reducing the speed limit, does not make conditions safer. Councillor Lutz said he has informed his constituents of that. He said Sergeant Lori Demaree, (IMPD), is the liaison for the Sugar Creek Subdivision and he will ask her to assign a couple of officers to patrol that area once the speed limit change goes into effect. He said the subdivision is considering hiring off-duty police officers for additional security.

Chair Hunter asked Mr. Sheets if the rest of the Councillors have signed off on the corresponding proposals. Mr. Sheets answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Mansfield asked Mr. Sheets what DPW's feelings are in reference to this Proposal No. 464, 2008. Mr. Sheets said it is not going to cause a major traffic concern,

but they want to make sure the residents do not get a false sense of security because the speed limit is being lowered. Councillor Cain moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to send Proposal Nos. 464-467, 2008 to the full Council with "Do Pass" recommendations. The motion carried with a vote of 8-0.

Councillor Cain announced that Heartland's Film Festival opening night is tonight, and will run for the next week and a half. She said the downtown American Multi-Cinema (AMC), Castleton, and Greenwood, are the participating theatres.

Councillor Pryor announced that the Lafayette Square area is having a Cultural Parade on Saturday, October 18 at 10:00 a.m. She said the Mayor will be the Grand Marshall for this event, and she will be in the parade, as well.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Benjamin Hunter, Chairman

BH/cj