



COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers, 10722 SE Main Street
& Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

MINUTES

JUNE 21, 2022

Council Present: Councilors Adam Khosroabadi, Lisa Batey, Desi Nicodemus, Council President Kathy Hyzy, and Mayor Mark Gamba

Staff Present: Steve Adams, City Engineer
Joseph Briglio, Community Development Director
Kelly Brooks, Assistant City Manager
Ryan Burdick, Police Captain
Justin Gericke, City Attorney
Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder

Ann Ober, City Manager
Scott Stauffer, City Recorder
Mandy Byrd, Development Projects Manager
Peter Passarelli, Public Works Director
Natalie Rogers, Climate & Natural Resources Manager
Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester

Mayor Gamba called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. Main Street Trees and Sidewalks – Discussion

Adams explained an ongoing issue with the sidewalks on Main Street buckling and causing tripping hazards due to tree roots from city planted trees, and that the issue had received complaints from a downtown Milwaukie business owner. Engineering firm AKS had been hired to consult with staff regarding how to resolve the issue. **Adams** provided background on the life of an urban street tree.

Adams presented silva cells as a concept to be considered for replacing the current ineffective growing area for trees and noted that the system had been implemented successfully in other cities.

Councilor Batey asked for clarification about whether cells are planted two feet deep, **Adams** responded that cells are planted one on top of each other with each cell about 12 to 18 inches tall and that trees will generally need 18 to 36 inches of depth. **Adams** stated that if silva cells were used they could last decades, it would resolve the buckling sidewalk issue, and trees would thrive and live longer.

Adams shared that Passarelli and Wilson presented the silva cell idea to the Tree Board in late May and the board had supported the cell concept and a staged removal of the trees. Three board members of the Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood District Association (NDA) met with Adams to tour the Main Street trees and discuss the removal of the old trees and installation of a silva cell system. The NDA members were in favor of the system and thought the existing trees should be taken out immediately instead of a staged removal to provide extra time for the new trees to develop and mature. **Adams** mentioned that if the city implemented a silva cell system, it could be incorporated and adopted as a downtown street treated design and any new development in downtown would install silva cells when planting street trees.

Adams expressed concern for the ongoing issue the unresolved tree/sidewalk situation poses. **Adams** shared additional benefits to using silva cells such as additional water filtration for storm drains and trees receiving more water due to the impervious sidewalks. **Adams** noted how the existing trees were showing signs of distress. **Councilor Batey** and **Adams** discussed why silva cells cannot be implemented with the existing trees.

Council President Hyzy thought the existing trees were getting close to the end of their life, and it made sense to move forward with a new system. **Passarelli** added that the existing trees were also not an appropriate choice for the location.

Councilor Batey and **Adams** discussed how many trees can fit on a block using the silva cell system and connecting cells to each other and then to storm drains.

Mayor Gamba provided a history of the Main Street tree issue. **Gamba, Adams,** and **Passarelli** discussed whether adding an irrigation system would be part of the silva cell installation and how the trees benefited from having the cells interconnected.

The group discussed how silva cells could affect the frontage improvement costs and why only five trees were included as part of the discussion. The group discussed whether to remove all five trees at once or start with two and came to a consensus to have staff report back on the cost of removing all five trees with installation of silva cells.

2. OR224/Monroe Street Intersection – Discussion

Adams presented the 2016 greenway concept plan for the intersection of Monroe Street at Highway 224, shared the concerns raised by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the results of a traffic study from April 2022. **Mayor Gamba** asked for clarification on what types of vehicles were being tracked and **Adams** replied that the study did not differentiate between vehicle types.

Councilor Batey and **Adams** discussed Monroe Street westbound two-way traffic. **Adams** stated the latest plans from ODOT included a bike box in-between the two-way traffic from both east and west of Hwy 224 and adjustments to the landscaping/bioretenention areas. The group discussed examples of bike boxes and delayed green lights for pedestrians' safety against right turns. **Council President Hyzy** voiced concern for pedestrians over adding more right turns onto Monroe Street and noted the growth and change that area will see in the next couple years.

Councilor Batey wanted to see traffic studies completed for the Hwy 224 intersections at Harrison Street and Oak Street; **Adams** stated ODOT did complete studies for those streets. The group discussed the addition of the right turn from Hwy 224 south onto Monroe Street and how to increase safety for pedestrians crossing Hwy 224.

Adams confirmed Council wanted to request no right on red signs and include the missing right turn from Hwy 224 south onto Monroe Street. **Council President Hyzy** and **Adams** discussed how making Monroe Street more pedestrian and bike friendly would lighten the issues occurring on Harrison Street and Oak Street.

3. New City Hall Council Chambers – Discussion

Brooks introduced Development Project Manager, Mandy Byrd and provided an update on what stage the project is at. **Stauffer** presented the first design option for the Council chambers/court room on the third floor of the new city hall. **Mayor Gamba** mentioned that in the past, smaller Council meetings had been held outside of chambers and expressed interest in such rooms being included in the design. The group discussed the locations of the balconies, elevators, stairwells, and the capacity of the conference room on the eastside of the third floor.

Stauffer and **Brooks** presented and discussed the second design. **Councilor Batey** noted that the audio/visual (AV) room seemed smaller in option two and the bathrooms

seemed larger and asked if the bathrooms would be accessible to the public. **Stauffer** and **Brooks** identified which restrooms would be accessible to the public.

Stauffer presented the design options side by side. **Council President Hyzy** and **Brooks** discussed where childcare during public meetings could take place. The group discussed the pros and cons of a west facing chambers versus a south facing chambers. **Councilor Batey** and **Brooks** discussed the ground level community room space. **Mayor Gamba** and **Stauffer** discussed which areas required badge access to enter. The group continued to discuss the options between designs one and two, but pointed out safety concerns with option two. The group generally favored the option two layout for it's larger capacity seating in chambers.

4. Adjourn

The group noted that Council would not meet in executive session after the meeting as had previously been announced.

Mayor Gamba adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Madigan, City Recorder

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