

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PUBLIC SAFETY and WELFARE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING and MEETING
MARCH 6, 2017**

The Public Safety and Welfare Committee of the Board of Aldermen held a meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017. Vice Chairman Veccharelli called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

M. Hardiman
J. Grant
N. Veccharelli
B. Bevan
J. Grant
P. Vetro (for E. Beatty)

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
City Attorney Jonathan Berchem
S. Fournier, Mayor's Asst.

Excused: E. Beatty

Vice Chairman Veccharelli stated the meeting was being held at the request of Katrina Moffitt regarding an appeal they filed concerning a defective sidewalk at 88 West Main Street.

Vice Chairman Veccharelli asked Ms. Moffitt if she wished to make a statement.

Anthony DePietro and Katrina Moffitt - 50 Florence Avenue - Mr. DePietro thanked Ald. Veccharelli for visiting the property yesterday. Mr. DePietro stated he did not feel his driveway was in any worse shape than any other driveway on the street. He stated it would be a tremendous expense to them to replace the sidewalk. He stated it was suggested by Ald. Veccharelli that perhaps the driveway could be patched.

Vice Chairman Veccharelli stated he spoke with the Public Works Director who stated it is the apron that is in disrepair. Ald. Veccharelli stated he also spoke with Ms. Moffitt who stated they are in the process of fixing up their property and that at some point work would include the driveway and apron. Vice Chairman Veccharelli stated he was made aware by the property owners that the damage to their sidewalk occurred when a dumpster was placed on the sidewalk by the adjoining neighbors while construction was taking place on their home. The transition is from the old sidewalk to the new sidewalk. Vice Chairman Veccharelli also pointed out the house is near the end of a dead end street.

Ald. Bevan asked about the transition of the concrete to the asphalt and asked the Ms. Moffitt if she planned to pay for it.

Mr. DePietro explained it is not a large area and that he felt they could make the transition. He stated it is not an even ground and that it is a downward slope.

Ald. Bevan commented he has been to the area twice.

Vice Chairman Veccharelli advised the Board the Public Works Director has stated the City could do work at a cost of approximately \$3,000 for the sidewalk and apron, and if the homeowner wanted the driveway done as well it would be an additional \$2,000.

Ald. Grant stated he too visited the location. He stated safety is the main concern and agreed there are concerns for the disrepair. Ald Grant reiterated the concern is the transition of the work is smooth and the continuity of the sidewalks with then neighbors.

Mr. DePietro stated they have resided at the property for nearly 27 years and that the sidewalk has been in about the same shape, until the neighbor began work on their property which impacted them. He stated it is the cost for them and that they were looking for some relief.

Ald. Vetro asked if the Public Works Director could shed some light on this issued.

Director Saley explained the property owner to the left of Ms. Moffit has put in a concrete apron, which impacted their driveway. He explained the solutions that were given to Ms. Moffit by the city to replace the sidewalk, apron and the driveway, if they so desired. He stated it would be an interest free loan from the city.

Ald. Bevan stated he resides on the other side of town and there was a similar situation in this neighbor and he questioned if the city could make some type of a ramp.

Director Saley stated two contractors as well as the city engineer looked at it and a ramp such as Ald. Bevan referenced would make the sidewalk unsafe. He stated there is some flexibility, but the main component would be the sidewalk and the need to make up the grade differential and make sure it pitches to the road.

Ald. Bevan stated he was trying to think of ideas to make this situation less costly for the Moffitts.

Director Saley stated at the end of the day the main concern for the Public Works Department is public safety.

Ald. Bevan asked the approximate cost for the repair/replacement of the sidewalk.

Director Saley stated the linear cost is \$40 for the sidewalk. He stated the real cost is with the apron. He stated the contractor went out to the property on Friday to obtain a firm cost.

Ald. Grant asked if it was possible to wait until the neighbor has completed his driveway and perhaps only some patchwork would need to be done.

Ald. Bevan asked Director Saley the square footage of the sidewalk.

Director Saley explained there are two different charges of work that need to be completed. He reiterated the lien for the costs to do the repairs is interest free.

Vice Chairman Veccharelli asked if they were to just do the sidewalk and repairs to the apron, what that cost would be.

Director Saley reiterated the cost is approximately \$3,000-5,000 with the end result being that the sidewalk is safe.

Ald. Bevan asked Ms. Moffitt and Mr. DePietro if there was a number they would be comfortable with.

Mr. DePietro stated, respectfully that number is \$0. He reiterated they feel they are innocent in the action and had his neighbors not replaced their sidewalk, driveway, etc., which impacted them significantly, they would not be here tonight. He stated they feel they have a functional driveway. He stated he was unclear as to grades, etc.

Vice Chairman Veccharelli thanked Ms. Moffitt and Mr. DePietro.

Ald. Veccharelli stated he wished to recognize the Public Works Director for additional information.

Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to uphold the appeal of Katrina Moffitt dated January 17, 2017 regarding the repair and/or replacement of the defective sidewalk at 50 Florence Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman instructed Ms. Moffitt to work with the Public Works Director.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Veccharelli and Ald. Hardiman made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Board Secretary