



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

DAWN M. JONES, CITY CLERK

PUBLIC WORKS & PROPERTY VACATION

OCTOBER 10, 2022, 3:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Sheila Niezgodski*, Karen White, Carl Littrell,
Lori Hamann, Jason Piontek

Others Present:

Dawn M. Jones*, Victoria Trujillo, Bob Palmer*,
Justin LePla*, John B Harlan*, Zoe Tembo*, Jakob*,
Angela M. Smith*, Rachel Boyles*, Chris
Boardman*, Sharon McBride*, Lori K. Hamann*

Agenda:

Bill No. 52-22 – An Ordinance to Vacate Property at
Keller Park Neighborhood

Members marked with an asterisk (*) are present digitally

Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=358012>

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski called to order the Public Works and Property Vacation Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Bill No. 52-22 – An Ordinance to Vacate Property at Keller Park Neighborhood Text

Angela Smith, Zoning Specialist with offices on the fourteenth (14th) floor of the County-City building, reported that the recommendation from the Department of Community Investment and from city engineering remains unfavorable and has not changed, nor has the recommendation from the Board of Public Works. The item was brought to the Board of Public Works in 2021 and has not been brought back to the board. The ordinance would create a dead-end alley by creating a sharp turn. It would inhibit future development. If the alley was used as a driveway, the curb cut would need to be removed. There are existing public head utilities in the alley. If the residents wish to improve the alley, there are mechanisms for them to do so. When an alley is vacated, the approach is removed, and the curb is restored. There are concerns with how the ordinance is worded.

David Laughlin, 217 Riverside Drive, reported that there are utilities running through all the alleys that service the residents. The intention is not to move the utilities. The issue is that the alleys are not maintained by the city. Currently the transformer prevents vehicles from making a turn into the alley. He confirmed that as a neighbor, he is in favor of the bill.

Councilmember Lee reported that the homeowners are looking for a beneficial solution and that he is in favor of the bill.

Councilmember Hamann asked if the new policy and budget for the equipment to tend to the alleys will address the residents' concerns.

Dan Parker reported that in the 2023 budget there are two proposed additional positions to create a second alley grading team and funding for the equipment necessary which would double the city's capacity to grade alleys.

Citizen Member Carl Littrell expressed concerns about citizens paying money to manage public property and reported that it is the responsibility of a citizen to manage the property adjacent to their lot.

Committee Member Hamann motioned to send Bill No. 52-22 to the full council with no recommendation, seconded by Citizen member Littrell, and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski - <i>Aye</i>	Committee Member Karen White - <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Lori Hamann - <i>Aye</i>	Citizen Member Jason Piontek - <i>Aye</i>
Citizen Member Carl Littrell - <i>Aye</i>	

With no further business, Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski adjourned the Committee meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheila Niezgodski, Committee Chair

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Please give Reasonable Advance Request when Possible