

LACONIA CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 200A
MARCH 26, 2018, 6:00 PM

Interim Chairman David Bownes called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Attendance: Councilor Bownes (Interim Chair), Councilor Cheney, Councilor Haynes

Staff: City Manager Scott Myers

Recording Secretary: City Clerk Cheryl Hebert

I. **SUBJECT:** Proposed Retaining Wall Policy

The purpose is to establish a City policy on repairing, maintaining and replacing retaining walls within or on a boundary of a City right of way. DPW Director Wes Anderson presented reasons for the need of a retaining wall policy. The policy would cover three areas; new retaining walls, existing retaining walls and program exceptions. Councilor Bownes questioned how it would work if a resident could not afford their part of the costs. City Manager Myers stated the costs that property owners would incur could be looked at on a case-by-case basis and maybe structure something. The City will fund 50% of the cost of the work when it is performed by a contractor. If the work is done with City personnel then the City's share of the cost is limited to 30% of the cost of materials and any equipment that may be rented for the project. Let it be known that the policy would recognize that there retaining walls within the City that have not yet been identified and for those situations where the City does the work there would no charge for City employee time.

II. **SUBJECT:** Proposed Driveway Cut Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for driveways for single family and duplex residences, both existing and proposed, that explains how to implement the existing City ordinance and establishes new criteria for driveways. The standards are to ensure the safety of the traveling public and maintain the quality of life in the City's neighborhoods. DPW Director Wes Anderson explained there have been many requests from residents to widen their driveways in order for them to gain more parking. This is more to control the width of the driveway at the right of ways for safety and esthetic reasons.

W. Anderson is not asking for a decision tonight but would like approval to move forward with writing the policy and bringing it to Council for approval.

Councilor Bownes opened the meeting up for public input and there was no one to come forward.

Councilor Cheney moves to allow DPW Director Wes Anderson to move forward with refining and finalizing the Retaining Wall Policy and the Driveway Cut Policy, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

III. **SUBJECT:** Private Roads

A handout was distributed to the committee regarding problematic roads and submitted to the clerk for the record. DPW Director Wes Anderson explained the handout and the purpose of this is just to update the committee. W. Anderson also extended his offer to sit down with the new committee members (Councilors Cheney and Haynes) to explain more in detail the work that has been done regarding private roads.

Councilor Bownes would like to make it known that the reason for this to be sorted out is for insurance reasons. City Manager Myers added that it is also making sure that emergency vehicles are able to get to locations and properties on these roads.

City Manager Myers stated that a legislative fix was looked into for this but the attorneys responded that to do a legislative fix would do more harm than good.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss or come before the committee, Councilor Bownes adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Bownes, Interim Chair