



Ravenna City Council
Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2021

The public meeting was held via Zoom and live streamed via YouTube. A video recording of the meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnbaCKYLEbk&t=2453s>

Council present via Zoom: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Cheryl Wood, Christina West, and Matt Harper.

Also attending the meeting via Zoom: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; Economic Development Director, Dennis West and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

The Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:12 P.M. by Chairperson, Matt Harper.

The only discussion item was the paving of South Freedom St.

Mr. Harper stated that Mr. Finney received the survey back from residents on South Freedom St. asking for their opinion on paving the street.

Mr. Finney stated that 21 surveys were mailed out and seven responses were mailed back. Five preferred option A which is a completely new brick street. Two of the responses preferred option B which is asphalt with brick crosswalks. He said that there was no feedback to leave the street as is.

In response to Mr. Harpers question, Mr. Finney stated that if Council were to bring it back to Committee with a decision to move forward it would be included in the 2022 paving program.

Mr. Finney stated that he spoke to Mr. Calfee and said that he wanted to bring the item forward so that Council could keep discussing it in order to budget for next year's paving program.

Mr. Finney said that since the majority of the residents had no feedback, and the City is trying to pave as many streets as possible with the paving levy, the intent is to resurface asphalt over the brick and place brick crosswalks at the intersections.

Ms. Michael stated her concern with the decision citing the people who returned the surveys that said they would like a new brick road. She said that once it is paved over the history will be lost.

Mr. Harper stated that there is a \$120,000 difference with keeping the road brick versus resurfacing it with asphalt with brick sidewalks.

Ms. Wood stated that the City needs to look at the cost of fixing the street with financial feasibility.

Ms. Michael suggested that there could be grants available since the bricks are considered historic. She expressed her frustration with sending out the surveys if ultimately the financial cost would make the decision.

It was stated that individuals who do not live on the street would like to see the brick kept but that some of the people who live on the street do not like the wear and tear on their vehicles. Since only a third of the residents sent back the surveys it was assumed that the other residents were indifferent to the type of new road that would be put in.

Mr. Moskun stated that many years ago residents spoke up regarding a brick road and it was eventually re-laid with brick again.

Mr. Harper asked if there had been any documented complaints about the brick road and Mr. Finney stated that there are approximately 5-10 undocumented complaints per year.

Mr. Harper stated that he values the bricks and the road, and he would not like to see it paved over, adding that if there is a way to avoid paving over it the City should.

Mr. Finney suggested that repairs to the road could be made in sections. He said that there is no way to know the condition of the bricks or the concrete below it until they remove the materials.

Mr. Finney stated that ultimately, they would like to keep it a brick street and they will do that if City Council is willing to spend the additional money to keep it brick. He requested to have an answer by September or October so that he and Mr. Jeffers can start planning the project.

- The item was for discussion only

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:29 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Matt Harper, Chairperson
Streets & Sidewalks Committee**