



**City of Cedar Rapids
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
City Hall – Council Chambers
Tuesday, July 19, 2016**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Council Member Scott Olson.

Committee Members Present: Council members Scott Olson, Chair; Ralph Russell and Justin Shields.

City Director Team: Jen Winter, Public Works Director; Emily Muhlbach, Communications Coordinator; Sandra Fowler, Assistant City Manager Development Services; Steve Hershner, Utilities Director; Jeff Pomeranz, City Manager.

Presenters: Mike Duffy, Street Superintendent; Jim Flamming, Utilities Process & Facilities Engineering Manager; Cara Matteson, Storm Water Coordinator; Matt Myers, Traffic Engineer; Doug Wilson, Engineering Program Manager.

1. Approval of Minutes from June 22, 2016 meeting.
ACTION: All in favor.
2. **Update** – Upcoming Utility Projects to be Filed – *Jim Flamming*
Filing plans and specifications for Water and WPC Plant projects were provided. Water Main Projects planned in conjunction with Paving for Progress and other Public Works projects also presented.
3. **Update** – Street Maintenance Projects – *Mike Duffy*
Street maintenance projects at various locations around the City was provided. Additions to the list include Green Valley Terrace SE panel replacement and an overlay on Sanden Road NE to correct an inverted crown. Crews are focusing on completing projects near schools prior to startup. Due to extreme temperatures this week, expecting the potential for blow outs.
4. **Update/Handout** – Traffic Striping and Two-Way Conversions – *Matt Myers*
Information on current striping projects and status of two-way conversions was provided. Crews stripe an average of 40-50,000 feet per week. Southeast quadrant is complete and northeast is near completion. Will begin striping northwest and southwest quadrants.

To improve safety of railroad crossings and to be considered quiet zone in the downtown area it's necessary to add gates and medians to crossings.
5. **Update** – Paving for Progress – *Nate Kampman*
Paving for Progress projects with upcoming Council agenda items was provided. There are currently 15 projects totaling 18M in progress. The E Avenue NW is on an accelerated schedule in order to be open same time as Highway 100 interchange is finalized and opened.
6. **Recommendation/Presentation** – Soil Quality Policy – *Cara Matteson*
The Soil Quality Policy is just part of the City's storm water management goals which include watershed management; Stormwater Master Plan; storm water fee changes; and incentive programs to educate and assist with implementation of best management practices.

The Greater Cedar Rapids Home Builders Association provided a proposed two-step process to retain all topsoil on-site and spread to 4 inches and if that amount is not available, then select 1 of 8 methods available per the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual.

Request for approval and recommendation to Council of amendment to the following ordinances to create a "topsoil rule":

- Chapter 71 (Erosion and Sediment Control for Construction Sites) to include a new permit fee schedule for Major and Minor Erosion Control permits
- Chapter 72 (Stormwater Management) to include topsoil preservation and restoration requirements for both private and public developments;
 - Option 1 – strip, stockpile and re-spread topsoil to a depth of 4 inches
 - Option 2 – utilize Iowa Stormwater Management Manual methods

Response to Committee questions:

How does policy differ from previous? Option 1 is similar to previous requirement; this policy provides additional methods

What are surrounding communities doing? Marion requires up to 8 inches per SUDAS; Hiawatha and Robins have not implemented a policy yet but would consider Cedar Rapids policy; North Liberty and Coralville are more stringent; Iowa City follows Iowa Stormwater Management Manual Is sod counted? Yes, one-inch sod plus 3 inches' topsoil

Policy not just targeting residential but commercial and City? Correct

How will this be enforced? Third party landscape contractor documentation plus periodic testing

Average infiltration capacity shows 5%, what is range? 2% to 12%

Would like to see what the true impact (quantify) is to control flash flooding. Feel more impact from detention, how can that be addressed? Policy also addresses quality of water from runoff not just infiltration/detention

ACTION:

Recommend revised policy move ahead to Council contingent on review of draft policy.

7. Public input

The following public members spoke regarding the Soil Quality Policy:

- Craig Seeley, NW resident excited about policy and shared information on www.holganix.com used by Greg's Lawn Service.
- Dustin Kern, developer and Home Builders Association Board Member appreciates working with City on the proposed policy.
- Mike Butterfield, Storm Water Commission member in favor of policy and need to continue to address all options (detention, infiltration, etc.).
- Martin Smith, NE resident talked about the cost to homeowners to repair lawns and request looking at more than just infiltration.
- Drew Retz, Jerry's Homes and Home Builders Association member, all new subdivision already preserving topsoil based on DNR standards and feels policy not necessary. Iowa City Policy uses self-certification with City inspections by Erosion Control and Inspectors.
- Robin Cash, SE resident expressed concern with enforcement and suggested adding language to real estate closing statement. He had a permeability test on rain garden soil and wonder if that is option for testing developments soil quality. Recommend that streets be more pervious would help with runoff and water quality.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Holmes, Administrative Assistant, Public Works Department