



10 First Street Northwest
Mason City, IA 50401-3224
www.masoncity.net

TO: MASON CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: SCOTT TORNQUIST
RE: FORMATION OF CITIZEN/STAFF COMMITTEE TO
RESEARCH A COMPREHENSIVE SIDEWALK POLICY FOR
MASON CITY
DATE: JANUARY 29, 2007

As we discussed at our January 11th worksession, I have worked with staff to bring forward the attached resolution regarding formation of a *Sidewalk Policy Committee*.

In my opinion Mason City has a number of inequities with our sidewalk program, including but not limited to:

1. Not all neighborhoods have been required to install sidewalks
2. Some neighborhoods have sidewalks that are not continuous
3. Property owners that have sidewalks bear the cost of installation and maintenance (repair, snow removal, etc.) of that sidewalk to the benefit of the entire community; those same individuals don't receive the benefit of sidewalks at some locations where they should exist
4. Some property owners may be receptive to liability for maintenance given the benefit, but may not have the financial means to cover initial installation.

In short, we have inequities with application of policy and the distribution of cost. Last fall when we conducted our "Council on the Road" neighborhood listening posts, sidewalk issues were expressed by the citizens at every gathering.

I am requesting your support to authorize the organization of a Comprehensive Sidewalk Policy Committee comprised of both citizens and city staff. Members would be appointed by Mayor Bang for Council approval.

The goal of this committee is to make recommendations to the City Council for a Comprehensive Sidewalk Policy. The process would entail:

- (1) Reviewing all aspects of existing sidewalk policy, including new development requirements, sidewalk repair, snow removal, etc.
- (2) Conduct public input workshops to identify citizen issues with current policy, and to seek input on viable solutions
- (3) Research how other communities address similar issues
- (4) Present to Council options for a sidewalk policy, financing, and timeframe for implementation.

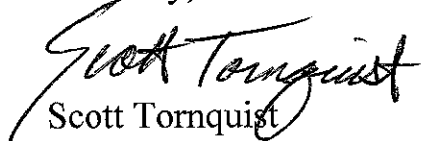
I would recommend a ten person committee, represented by seven private citizens and three staff personnel as follows:

- Citizen / Neighborhood (3 members representing both old and new residential areas)
- Cerro Gordo Public Health Representative
- Concrete Contractor / Developer
- Public and Private School Systems
- Commercial / Retail
- Neighborhood Development Specialist (Facilitator)
- Planning and Zoning – staff
- Engineering – staff

With respect to timing, if the Mayor could bring forward his committee member appointments not later than the second regular meeting in March, the committee could conceivably start the process by early April. The objective would be to deliver a recommendation around November 1 so any financial implications could be discussed during the '08-'09 budget process.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, I remain available at your convenience.

Sincerely,


Scott Tornquist

Mason City

CITY OF MASON CITY

Building and Neighborhood Services Department

10 First Street NW • Mason City, IA 50401 • (641) 421-3620 • Fax (641) 421-3623

TO: SCOTT TORNQUIST, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
FROM: PAT OTTO, NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
RE: BENEFITS OF SIDEWALKS TO COMMUNITIES
DATE: JANUARY 26, 2007

PHO

According to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center there are a multitude of reasons that sidewalks are important in a community:

1. Sidewalks provide a safe and level walkway, especially during inclement weather for people using wheelchairs, the elderly, or people pushing a cart or stroller
2. Sidewalks provide safe places for children to walk, run, skate, ride their bikes, and play
3. Sidewalks improve the ability for people to get around by providing ways for them to get wherever they need to go: work, parks, schools, church, shopping areas, transit stops, and home
4. Sidewalks enhance the appearance of individual properties, neighborhoods, and the entire community
5. Sidewalks significantly reduce pedestrian collisions with motor vehicles

In Mason City some neighborhoods lack sidewalks completely while others may have sidewalks that are not continuous. Areas with discontinuous sidewalks also discourage people from walking. People who are in wheelchairs or have vision impairments may find it impossible to navigate under these conditions. People may be forced to walk, or otherwise navigate, in the street or along the shoulder, close to moving traffic. The presence of sidewalks in neighborhoods can significantly improve Mason City citizen's ability to access their community.

RESOLUTION NO. 07 -

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A COMPREHENSIVE SIDEWALK POLICY COMMITTEE
FOR THE CITY OF MASON CITY

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a Comprehensive Sidewalk Policy Committee to study various issues and concerns relating to the inequities with the application of the current sidewalk policy and distribution of cost for sidewalks in the City of Mason City; and

WHEREAS, said Committee would research information and obtain public input with the objective of presenting to the City Council, for their consideration, a comprehensive sidewalk policy:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mason City, Iowa, that:

Section 1: A Sidewalk Policy Committee is hereby created to study and make recommendations to the City Council.

Section 2: That said Committee process shall be as follows:

- A. To review all aspects of the existing sidewalk policy, including new development requirements, sidewalk repair, snow removal, etc;
- B. To conduct public input workshops to identify citizen issues with current policy, and to seek input on viable solutions;
- C. To research how other communities address similar issues;
- D. To present to the City Council options for a sidewalk policy, financing and timeframe for implementation.

Section 3: The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to appoint a ten member committee represented by private citizens and staff personnel from the following areas:

- Citizens representing both old and new residential areas
- Cerro Gordo Public Health
- Concrete contractor/developer

- Public and private school systems
- Commercial/retail
- City staff (Planning and Zoning and Engineering staff with the Neighborhood Development Specialist as facilitator)

PASSED AND APPROVED this 6th day of February, 2007.

Roger Bang, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tom Meyer, Interim City Clerk

The Mayor Pro tem called the question and the following ordinance was introduced.

Ord. (1st Consideration):

An ordinance amending the 2000 City Code, by repealing Title 1, Chapter 8 Article G, in its entirety pertaining to the Department of Personnel of the City of Mason City, Iowa, was presented.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Yea: Zook, Weaver, Marsters, Jaszewski, Nelson, Torn
(Motion was declared carried.)

It was moved by Zook and seconded by Marsters that the ordinance be received and placed on file for First Consideration.

The Mayor Pro tem called the question and the following ordinance was introduced.

Ord. (1st Consideration):

An ordinance amending the 2000 City Code by repealing Title 1, Chapter 8, Article D, Sections 1, 2 and 3 in their entirety, and adopting new Sections in lieu thereof pertaining to the duties of the City Attorney for the City of Mason City, Iowa, was presented.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Yea: Zook, Marsters, Weaver, Jaszewski, Tornquist, Nelson
(Motion was declared carried.)

23. Tornquist–Establish Comprehensive Sidewalk Policy Committee:

The following communication had been submitted by Council Member Tornquist regarding approval to authorize the organization of a Comprehensive Sidewalk Policy Committee comprised of both citizens and City Staff with members being appointed by the Mayor subject to Council approval;

(As submitted: Comprehensive Sidewalk Policy Committee)

It was moved by Tornquist and seconded by Jaszewski that the resolution be adopted.

Council Member Tornquist outlined his recommendation.

Council Member Weaver applauded Tornquist for his effort in this area over the past few weeks advising however, he was not yet ready to support putting together a committee at this point and wanted to make sure the entire Council was on board and understood what would be coming back to them from the Committee.

The Mayor Pro tem called the question and the following resolution was introduced.

Reso. (FAILED):

A resolution approving the establishment of a Comprehensive Sidewalk Policy Committee for the City of Mason City, Iowa, was presented.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Yea: Tornquist, Jaszewski, Nelson
Nay: Zook, Weaver, Marsters
(Motion failed.)

23A. The Mayor Pro tem stated that upon an affirmative vote of the City Council, Council may go into closed session pursuant to Chapter 21.5.1(i), Code of Iowa to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

It was moved by Marsters and seconded by Zook that Council proceed into Closed Session.

The Mayor called the question and on roll call, the vote was as follows:

Yea: Marsters, Zook, Jaszewski, Nelson, Tornquist
Nay: Weaver
(Motion was declared carried.)

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:38 P.M.

Council reconvened in Open Session at 8:00 P.M.

24. Weaver –Adjusting Salary for Interim City Administrator:

The following communication had been submitted by Council Member Weaver regarding approval to increase the Interim City Administrator's salary