

# TOWN OF WINDERMERE

## Town Council Workshop Minutes (Virtual)

September 22, 2020

### CALL TO ORDER:

Present were Mayor Jim O'Brien, Council Members Bill Martini, Bob McKinley, Andy Williams, Chris Sapp, and Liz Andert. Town Manager Robert Smith, and Public Works Director Scott Brown were also present. Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter was absent.

Mayor O'Brien explained that this is a workshop, therefore no motions or votes will be made. Mayor O'Brien called the workshop to order at 6:03pm. He then led everyone into the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

### 1. OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to the public. Mr. and Mrs. Stroup deferred until after the presentation was made. Mr. Andrew McCarthy of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue questioned the width of the proposed roadway, trees and tree mitigation, and speed control if roads are widened. Mrs. Joan Foglia requested to defer until after the presentation. Ms. Susan Carter 106 Palm Street, stated she agrees with Mr. McCarthy's comments and tree impacts. Mrs. Theresa Schretzmann-Myers deferred her comments. Ms. Nora Brophy commented on concerns regarding widening the roads and speeders. Mr. Dean Miller deferred his comments. Mr. Stephen Withers requested to defer his comments. Ms. Sarah Lopez deferred her comments. Ms. Carol Miller deferred her comments. And Ms. Annamaye Clonts will also defer.

### 2. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

#### **a. First & Forest Stormwater Project Presentation**

Mayor O'Brien turned the floor over to Manager Smith and Mr. Hau Chau, representative from Kimley Horn. KHA gave a presentation regarding the proposed 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Forest Street stormwater project which includes proposed road and drainage improvements. Manager Smith commented on a past project in this area, the proposed concept design, green book standards, preserving trees, and drainage/swales. Mayor O'Brien questioned trees that would be remediated. Manager Smith stated that an arborist will be consulted. He stated that an arborist had not been obtained in the concept plan phase, any tree mitigation needed, will be done. Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to the public. First to speak was Ms. Sarah Lopez of 110 Forest Street. She stated that she is disappointed with the proposed plan. Ms. Lopez also commented on the previous project that has been done in this area that currently is not working. Some discussion followed. Mr. Richard Gonzalez of 103 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue commented on swales/French drains he installed on his property. Ms. Lopez questioned the blue pipes between her property and her neighbor's property. Mr. Chau explained it is only property/survey lines. Mr. Keith Carsten of Forest Street questioned the swales and right of way areas. KHA explained it denotes the area that can be affected. Mr. Carsten the questioned the proposed width of the road, for drainage or financing/grant. Manager Smith stated the minimum standards are mandated through the State for dirt roads. Some discussion followed regarding the 9' travel lane requirement for dirt roads and shoulders. Ms. Brandi Haines 835 Oakdale Street stated that she spoke with the State who advised her that the requirement is in place only when substantial road work is being done. She also stated that if the roads are remaining dirt and not paved, those standards do not need to be met. Mr. Stephen Withers questioned if all swales are connected by a pipe and will there be standing water in the bottom of ditches that will percolate? Mr. Chau stated yes, all ditches are connected, and they will percolate and travel to the outfall. Some discussion followed. Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to the Town Council members. Member Martini questioned he width for a one-way road, the minimal size for tree removal, and the outfall over-flow into Wauseon Bay. Mr. Chau stated that the road would need to accommodate emergency vehicles, maybe a 15' width. He also stated that he would check the scope for the DBH of trees. Manager Smith stated that an arborist will be incorporated at a later date. Mr. Chau then commented on the regarding of the swale at Wauseon Bay. Some discussion followed. Mr. Jeff Szukalski of 219 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue questioned the ending location of the flow of the water, the French drain, and seawall ownership. Mr. Victor Gallo explained that the water will continue to connect to the existing system. Discussion followed. Mayor O'Brien returned the floor to Town Council discussion. Member McKinley commented that if the roads are widened, speeding and cut through traffic will become a bigger problem. He then stated that roads needed to be maintained better and a better maintenance plan be put in place. Manager Smith stated that previous projects without engineering have caused the problems of today. Much discussion followed. Member Williams stated he concurs with Member

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McKinley regarding a standard width for the roads. He then questioned how both culverts and ditch systems will be maintained. Mr. Chau explained the process. Some discussion followed. Member Sapp commented on the need to have a plan in place for the future to follow and have knowledge of. Further discussion followed. Mayor O'Brien recapped the discussion as the Town Council is amenable to having the engineers re-work the complete width. Ms. Lopez commented on past discussions which have not been addressed. Mayor O'Brien commented that items have been addressed and work will continue.

Mayor O'Brien recessed the meeting at 8:21pm. The workshop reconvened at 8:25pm

#### **b. Butler & 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Stormwater Improvements Projects Presentation**

Manager Smith introduced and presented this item. He then turned the floor over to Mr. Chau for the proposed concept 1 presentation. Mr. Chau gave the presentation of the first concept. Road widths, road crowns, swales/ditches, rights of way, and trees. Manager Smith commented on the proposed reduced road widths. Mayor O'Brien commented that any changes would need to be reviewed by FEMA. He then opened the floor to the public. Mr. Tom Stroup 201 W 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue commented on losing 23' of his front vegetation. He then stated he's not in favor of the project. Mrs. Dawn Stroup stated she is not in favor of this plan. She then stated that drainage issues did not begin until asphalt was put down. Mr. Jim Willard of 228 W 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue stated his house was flooded twice after the asphalt was put down. He then stated that, as a stormwater project, it's needed. Mr. Willard then commented on the Green Book Standards. Ms. Annamaye Clonts of 632 Butler Street introduced herself. She commented on drainage issues in the past and current conditions which are worse. Ms. Clonts stated she believes that there is a fix that is within the Town's character. Mrs. Theresa Schretzmann-Myers of 2713 Tryon Place introduced herself. She stated that asphalt, concrete, and roof tops cause the water issues. Ms. Schretzmann-Myers stated that trees are beneficial for the water. She urged all to not impact the Historical School site. Mr. Dean Miller of 625 Butler Street introduced himself. He stated that there are water issues. Mr. Miller commented that the width of the roads is a concern. Ms. Brandi Haines of 835 Oakdale Street introduced herself. She then stated concerns with the widths of the proposed roads. The project needs to scaled back. Ms. Haines then stated that door hangers are not the proper course of notification. Manager Smith commented on all avenues that are taken for public notification. Mrs. Joan Foglia of 215 Butler Street introduced herself. She then stated that she believes each resident has a responsibility to stay updated on issues/events in Town. Mrs. Foglia stated that all can come together and achieve the projects best for the Town. Mr. Stephen Withers of 712 Main Street introduced himself. He then commented on ditches that used to be in front of his property at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street. Mr. Withers stated that a berm was placed which diverted water into the railroad right of way and some down 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He then stated that the berm could shifted to place all the water in the right of way instead of down 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Withers commented that he's concerned that the grader can't do a 2% slope that is needed. Mayor O'Brien thanked all for their comments. He then turned the floor over to the Town Council. Member Martini questioned if the engineering near the historical site could be done to protect that site. He then stated he agreed with Mr. Willard's comments. Member Andert stated that maybe this project needs to be self-funded. She then commented on possible rain gardens. Manager Smith stated that with the interest of time, Mallory with Kimley Horn had a presentation regarding rain gardens which has not been heard. Mallory then gave a quick presentation regarding rain gardens. Mr. Frank Krens 727 Forest Street questioned if problematic streets could be closed. He stated it could solve some problems. Member Sapp stated that the Town should consider the grants. He then stated that contact with FEMA and LMS should be made for acceptable road widths. Manager Smith commented on self-funding and tax increases. Member McKinley stated that he would like to keep the roads narrow as possible. He then commented on comments from Mr. Withers. Some discussion followed. Member Williams stated that the dirt roads intersections were used to slow the water down. He then commented on existing homes that are not maintaining their own water. Member Williams stated that the water needs to be slowed down uphill before it runs downhill. Mayor O'Brien summarized the discussion as looking at the School House location for water storage, obtain a map of the trees, and re-engineer the width. Manager Smith reminded everyone of the Fernwood charrette tomorrow night.

#### **3. TIMED ITEMS AND PUBIC HEARING**

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5. MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS**

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6. **STAFF REPORTS**


7. **ADJOURN**

There being no further comments, Mayor O'Brien adjourned the workshop at 9:43pm.



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Dorothy Burkhalter, MMC, FCRM  
Town Clerk



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Jim O'Brien, Mayor