

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

OCTOBER 21, 2021

The Town Council convened both in-person at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado and via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting platform, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. In attendance Councilors Ferrelli, Grambley, Lakin, Schuyler, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark. Councilor Beck was absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Joint Workshop dated October 11, 2021.

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 10-18-21 presenting the project background, and a letter dated September 20th sent to property owners notifying them of the meeting and presentation of the preliminary design of the Amelia Street Project. Letters and emails received prior to the meeting from Randy and Jen Parker dated 10-20-21 expressing concerns with paving Amelia to Sabeta; Dana Ivers dated 10-18-21 in opposition to paving; Eva House dated 10-20-21 stating concerns with increased traffic if paved; Angela Hawse dated 10-19-21 presenting concerns with paving of roads, driving speeds, pedestrian safety.

Manager Neill explained the 2021 budget contains funding to prepare a preliminary design of Amelia Street from County Road 5 to the Yates Subdivision. At the April 14th Council meeting the engineering consultants presented the project scope, existing conditions and typical sections to obtain direction on the design process. At that time, he noted, the scope of the design included as much curb, gutter, sidewalk, parking and roadway as was practical. Direction from Council was to design two 12 foot drive lanes; retain and work around all existing sidewalk and valley pan; design additional sidewalk on the east side of the street if feasible; project scope to encompass Sabeta Drive on the south, and Yates Subdivision on the north. He reported the engineers have completed "a tremendous amount of work" to produce the current design which includes curb, gutter, valley pan, sidewalk, asphalt and ADA elements. The scope of work also includes a topographic survey, ownership mapping, modeling of existing conditions and identification of encroachments.

Mayor Clark explained the project has been on the Capital Improvement Plan for many years, and engineering was budgeted in the current year to begin the process of evaluating the potential project. Town Engineer Joanne Fagan noted Amelia Street had been identified as a "collector street" similar to Railroad Street, which has already been paved.

Engineer Fagan presented slides of the engineering criteria identified for improving Amelia Street, including pedestrian travel; vehicular travel; drainage; challenges which include limited rights-of-ways, private improvements on rights-of-ways, buildings constructed at grades lower than the road, steep driveways and two major slopes on South Amelia are in the right-of-way. She presented the preliminary design templates; intersections; County Road 5 (CR 5) layout; drawings of culverts, utility and private encroachment impacts with "problematic items" including electricity, telephone, water, sewer, vegetation; cost, financing and phasing. She reported the preliminary cost estimate is between 3.5 and 4 million for the project. She noted the Colorado Department of Transportation has grant funds for sidewalks, but there are no available grant funds for streets; and added "phasing would add to the project cost".

There were questions from the Council to the Engineers. There was discussion by the Council.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Robert Savath suggested considering paving 300 to 400 feet west of the intersection at CR5; and noted “there is far less traffic” on the street heading into Sabeta Drive.

Brad Blackwell explained he walks daily on the street and noted the road to Sabeta is rarely used; he asked that “speed in the area” be addressed and suggested speed control such as the current valley pan.

Michael Saftler spoke representing property owner Dana Ivers and reported “she would prefer no improvements past CR 5”. He remarked “stop signs are the best use to control speed” and noted “the idea of a three stop signs on CR 5 is a good idea”. He asked that the area to Sabeta “be kept to a minimum”, noting “it might be overkill to put a sidewalk to Sabeta”.

Andrew McGlone inquired into if there were “any recorded accidents on either north or south Amelia” and “what happens to increased water run off from the highest part of Town”, noting “it’s a real issue”.

Angela Hawse asked the Council to consider “how the decision factors into our Master Plan”, and the need to have “data driving a decision for this project”. She spoke in favor of pedestrian safety, “sidewalks, speed bumps, signage” and state she is “not in favor of paving roads”.

Krista Javoronok explained she is teacher at the school and also a crossing guard from north to south Amelia Streets. She stated “there needs to be increased safety at the intersection”.

Pat Willits stated he feels that “all goals will be accomplished from addressing CR 5 north” including a sweep curve and maintaining stop signs; and noted “I advocate leaving Amelia to Sabeta as it is”.

Dana Ivers stated “I don’t understand how paving a road will slow people down”; questioned the use of asphalt and did not support installation of a sidewalk to Sabeta.

Vickie Hawse said she “agrees with things that have been said” and suggested “collecting more data and community input” on the project. She spoke in favor of installing sidewalks and was “opposed to paving and widening streets”. She questioned what plans would be place to “control speed”.

Angela Hawse noted Council had received a letter from Eva House that states she lives on Amelia with “small children” and wishes to “keep the street the way it is” as it “keeps traffic slow”, and is “not in favor of paving or changing” the street.

Joanna Wasser explained she lives on North Amelia “across from the elementary school” and is concerned about the safety of her family “and children that walk to school on a regular basis”. She stated “we’re not in favor of paving the road, but are in favor of safety measures” and “slowing traffic”.

The Mayor thanked participants for the public comments and noted the Council will evaluate the engineers findings and consider the public input, noting “this is just a preliminary discussion”.

Joint Workshop
October 21, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk