

City of St. Helens

CITY COUNCIL

Public Hearing Minutes

March 4, 2015

Members Present: Randy Peterson, Mayor
Keith Locke, Councilor
Susan Conn, Councilor
Ginny Carlson, Councilor

Members Absent: Doug Morten, Council President

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Jon Ellis, Finance Director
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Sue Nelson, Interim Public Works Co-Director
Jacob Graichen, City Planner

Others: Jeff Reinan Karen Reinan



Public Hearing

Petitioner: Jeff and Karen Reinan

Proposal: Vacation of public right of way

Location: Portion of South 4th Street Right of Way

At 6:20 p.m., Mayor Randy Peterson opened the public hearing.

Staff Report

City Planner Jacob Graichen presented his staff report dated February 24, 2015. The request is to vacate the west 15 feet of the South 4th Street right of way abutting Lots 12 and 13, Block 40, of the St. Helens Subdivision. The purpose of this vacation is to improve loan eligibility of the property per the petitioner's petition. Banks will not loan on a building located in a street right of way, according to the petitioner.

The Planning Commission recommended granting 10 feet. Their recommendation is based on the possibility of a future street widening and the potential for a retaining wall. This is a dead-end street.

Based upon the facts and findings, staff recommends the Council grant the street vacation but consider potential future improvements as to whether the entire 15 feet or a reduced amount be granted with the provision that utility easements be retained over the entire areas allowed to be vacated.

Testimony in Favor

◆ Karen and Jeff Reinan. They were under the opinion that they were going to do 15 feet because it was a good distance away from the property. He was surprised to hear about the location of the natural gas line. They are fine with allowing an easement and are still asking for

15 feet. The duplex is rented out. They occasionally have issues with tenants because of the condition of the duplex. Being eligible to sell the house or make improvements would be a relief.

Testimony in Opposition

No testimony in opposition.

Close Public Hearing – 6:38 p.m.



ATTEST:


Kathy Payne, City Recorder


Randy Peterson, Mayor