

City of St. Helens

CITY COUNCIL

Public Hearing Minutes

October 18, 2017

Members Present: Rick Scholl, Mayor
Doug Morten, Council President
Keith Locke, Councilor
Susan Conn, Councilor
Ginny Carlson, Councilor

Staff Present: John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Finance Director
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Margaret Jeffries, Library Director
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner
Jacob Graichen, City Planner

Others: Harvey Bilton Steve Topaz



Public Hearing

Petitioner: Harvey Bilton

Proposal: Vacation of Public Right-of-Way

Location: The west 25 feet of the N. 10th Street right-of-way between the Willamette Street and Columbia Blvd. rights-of-way of the St. Helens Subdivision, St. Helens, Oregon

At 6:30 p.m., Mayor Scholl opened the public hearing.

Staff Report

Associate Planner Dimsho presented the staff report dated October 10, 2017.

Based upon the facts and findings, staff recommends the City Council grant the street vacation petition with the provisions that:

1. A public easement be retained over the northerly 100 feet of the right-of-way to be vacated.
2. A public access easement be retained over the entire right-of-way to be vacated to ensure access to the public sanitary sewer line.
3. When any future development occurs that uses N. 10th Street for access, the existing driveway serving 1020 Columbia Blvd. must be removed and replaced with a shared driveway built within the remaining 10th Street right-of-way. Driveway must include standard curb and sidewalk. Alternatively, the existing driveway must be removed and replaced with a standard street. The 10th Street improvement standards will be based on the development proposal at that time.

Councilor Locke asked if street vacations are generally for both sides. Dimsho responded that it was just for their portion this time.

Councilor Carlson asked if a response was received from the school. Dimsho confirmed that the

school signed off as one of the affected property owners. Carlson asked if this will affect the school crossings. Dimsho said it does not.

Testimony in Favor

◆Harvey Bilton. He agreed with Dimsho. The proposed area to be vacated is primarily used as a driveway.

Testimony in Neutral

None spoke in neutral.

Testimony in Opposition

◆Steve Topaz. He is opposed for historic reasons. He has seen streets narrowed down in other areas of the country that are now causing problems. He recommends not going below the standard 80 feet.

Rebuttal

◆Harvey Bilton. He understands what Steve is talking about. There is a canyon just past the area being vacated. He doesn't anticipate it ever being developed because of wetlands.

Close Public Hearing and Record – 6:45 p.m.

Deliberations will be held during the regular session following this hearing.



Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:


Kathy Payne, City Recorder


Rick Scholl, Mayor