



City of Helena
Special Administrative Meeting – Sidewalk Summit
March 30, 2023 – 4:00 PM
Zoom Online Meeting; <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86226216842>
City County Building, Room 326

Time & Place

A City Commission Administrative meeting was held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom Online Meeting ID: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86226216842> and physically in the City County Building, Room 326.

Call to Work Session, Introductions

(00:00:44) The following responded present, either via zoom or in person:

Assistant City Attorney Hawkaluk
City Manager Burton
Mayor ProTem Dean
Commissioner Shirliff
Commissioner Logan
Commissioner Reed

The following were absent:

Mayor Collins

Commission Comments, Questions

(00:01:40) There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

November 11, 2022 - Summary

A. Sidewalk Improvement Program (SIP) Overview

B. Existing City Code Overview

(00:01:52) Transportation Systems Director Knoepke presented Items A and B.

Why a Sidewalk District?

A. Advantages/Disadvantages

B. Where to start?



- (00:06:50)** Director Knoepke presented Items A and B.
- (00:10:00)** Commissioner Reed asked Director Knoepke about the relationship between the Safe Routes to Schools initiative and grant funding opportunities.
- (00:12:04)** Commissioner Logan asked Director Knoepke for clarification of the school-centered phases diagram and what the boundaries of a Sidewalk District would look like.
- (00:13:50)** Commissioner Logan asked Director Knoepke if properties with existing sidewalks would be assessed.
- (00:15:40)** Mayor ProTem Dean asked Director Knoepke about the possibility of temporary sidewalk districts transitioning to maintenance districts.
- (00:17:30)** Commissioner Shirliff asked Director Knoepke, Manager Burton, and Deputy Director Couey about the cost per property owner.
- (00:23:24)** Commissioner Reed suggested keeping accessibility as the goal and focus.

Enforcement Discussion

A. Increased Enforcement

B. Consequences for Violations

- (00:27:50)** Director Knoepke presented Items A and B.
- (00:37:22)** Commissioner Shirliff asked Director Knoepke about funding models in other cities.
- (00:39:18)** Commissioner Reed asked Director Knoepke if other communities in Montana utilize sidewalk districts.
- (00:40:22)** Commissioner Logan discussed concerns relating to whether the district model would be considered an assessment or a tax.
- (00:45:33)** Manager Burton clarified next steps and the decision-making process.
- (00:47:45)** Commissioner Reed expressed support for increasing enforcement and using fines for violations.
- (00:48:50)** Manager Burton discussed varying scenarios including variances.
- (00:49:42)** Mayor ProTem Dean requested code enforcement data from Director Knoepke.



- (00:53:17)** Mayor ProTem Dean and Director Knoepke discussed managing the backlog of applications/projects and identifying a dollar amount.
- (00:54:16)** Commissioner Logan discussed obstacles and feasibility of enforcement measures.
- (00:55:48)** Commissioner Reed clarified her view of the enforcement criteria.
- (00:56:42)** Director Knoepke discussed code enforcement scenarios and the need for education.
- (00:59:23)** Commissioner Shirliff asked Director Knoepke about the current funding balance.
- (01:00:34)** Mayor ProTem Dean asked Director Knoepke if people that have already applied for the sidewalk program will need to reapply.
- (01:01:34)** Director Knoepke discussed the need for a discussion about funding outstanding installations.

C. Overview of asset management software

- (00:00:00)** **Topic C was not discussed.**

Potential City Code Revisions

A. Discuss any City Code revisions that are needed/proposed

- (00:00:00)** **Topic A was not discussed.**

Public Comment

- (01:03:00)** George McCauley provided public comment, advocating for citizens with disabilities which affect transportation and supporting sidewalk improvements.
- (01:05:20)** Joel Peden provided public comment, advocating for citizens with disabilities which affect transportation and supporting sidewalk improvements.
- (01:12:40)** Gina Lytle provided public comment, advocating for citizens with disabilities which affect transportation and supporting sidewalk improvements.
- (01:20:56)** Theresa Ortega provided public comment, advocating for citizens with disabilities which affect transportation and supporting sidewalk improvements.



- (01:23:14)** Wilbur Rehmann provided public comment, supporting sidewalk improvements and Safe Routes to Schools.
- (01:31:50)** Commissioner Logan asked for future consideration of bonds or levies for funding opportunities.
- (01:32:16)** Commissioner Reed asked for timeline information related to bonds and levies and encouraged the public to test the sidewalk and accessibility measures in Helena.
- (01:33:24)** Commissioner Shirliff thanked those in attendance and discussed the need for improvements.
- (01:36:24)** Mayor ProTem Dean thanked those in attendance and recognized the relevant boards.

Adjournment

- (01:37:20)** There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.