

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

January 27, 2020

Council President Hardin called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Myers, Barron, Smith, Davis, Primmer, Gutierrez, and Kirwan. Mayor Drotzmann was excused. In attendance was Judge Creasing (arrived at 7:03pm), as well as City staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Gary Luisi, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, Chief Edmiston, Mark Krawczyk, Mollie Croisan, and Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Media present were Jade McDowell of the East Oregonian (arrived at 7:02pm) and Michael Kane from NE Oregon Now (exited the meeting at 7:25pm). The pledge of allegiance was given.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor Barron moved and Councilor Primmer seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-E, to include:

- A. Confirmation to the Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee: Position #1, Lydia Raath, term from 01/28/2020 to 12/31/2022
- B. Minutes of the December 23, 2019, Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
- C. Minutes of the January 10 & 11, 2020, City Council Goal Setting Session Meeting
- D. Minutes of the January 13, 2020, City Council work session and regular meeting
- E. Liquor License Application for "Off-Premises", sales for Westing Grocery, LLC doing business as Hermiston Grocery Outlet, located at 1874 N. 1st Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

(Jade McDowell arrived 7:02pm & Judge Creasing arrived at 7:03pm)

Resolution No. 2142- Declaring Public Necessity to Acquire Real Property for the NW Geer Road, W Harper Road, and N 1st Place Realignment. Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan presented a PowerPoint (attached) regarding reconstructing the intersections of NW Geer Rd, W Harper Rd, and N 1st Pl to relieve congestion and stacking of vehicles specifically during peak times while accommodating frequent semi-truck traffic and future growth, as well as taking into consideration the new power pole Umatilla Electric Cooperative has recently placed in that area as well. The best feasible options to move forward with the realignment include obtaining the properties in the resolution request. Approving the resolution would authorize the City to start negotiations with the property owner to purchase the land or use the condemnation process to obtain the property for fair market value.

Councilor Myers excused herself due to an actual conflict of interest and will abstain from discussions and voting.

Councilor Primmer stated he had concerns regarding Figure 5 of the potential realignment designs and the accidents that could take place due to its configuration.

Councilor Kirwan stated the Public Infrastructure has been working on this realignment project for the last two years taking into consideration the power pole, railroad, the heaviest flow traffic areas, and semi's.

Public Comment

Jackie Linton, 111 E Beech St- asked if traffic lights had been considered in this area, and if not, if a study could be done.

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Assistant City Manager Morgan stated a study had been conducted and there is not enough traffic in that area to warrant traffic lights; however, this can be done in the future if traffic increases.

Councilor Kirwan moved and Councilor Davis seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2142 and lay upon the record. Councilor Myers abstained, Councilor Gutierrez voted against, and Councilors Primmer, Hardin, Barron, Davis, Smith, and Kirwan voted in favor. Motion carried 6-1.

(Michael Kane exited the meeting 7:25pm)

Ordinance No. 2293- Amending Chapter 35 of the Hermiston Code of ordinances entitled “Public Contracts”. City Manager Smith explained that the City is in the process of reviewing and updating ordinances to make current with city practices, as well as state and federal law; updates to this ordinance include: language related to conflicts of interest, bid protests, grants and contracts funded by grants, and more.

Council President Hardin requested that the first reading be by title only. Hearing no opposition, City Attorney Gary Luisi read the ordinance by title only. Council President Hardin requested that the ordinance be put on for final adoption at this meeting and that the second reading be by title only. After City Attorney Gary Luisi read the ordinance by title only for the second reading. Councilor Barron moved and Councilor Primmer seconded that Ordinance 2293 be adopted and become effective 30-days after adoption by the City Council. 8 votes for; none against. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2294- Amending Chapter 50, of the Hermiston Code of ordinances entitled “Garbage”

City Manager Smith explained that the City is in the process of reviewing and updating ordinances to make current with city practices, as well as state and federal law, updates to this ordinance include: renaming this Chapter to “Solid Waste”, and adding and updating language of handling infectious waste and account fees.

Council President Hardin requested that the first reading be by title only. Hearing no opposition, City Attorney Gary Luisi read the ordinance by title only. Council President requested that the ordinance be put on for final adoption at this meeting and that the second reading be by title only. After City Attorney Gary Luisi read the ordinance by title only for the second reading. Councilor Davis moved and Councilor Smith seconded that Ordinance 2294 be adopted and become effective 30-days after adoption by the City Council. 8 votes for; none against. Motion carried unanimously.

December 2019 Financial Report

Councilor Primmer moved and Councilor Myers seconded to accept the December Financial Report as presented by Finance Director Mark Krawczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Library- Councilor Davis stated the Board was introduced to its newest member, Patricia Alder, and discussed possible renovations to the lower level of the Library.

Hispanic Advisory Committee- Councilor Gutierrez and Barron stated the Committee had presentations from: Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter, Jessica Keys from Senator Merkley’s Office, Maria Duron from Hermiston School District, Hacienda West Apartments and La Lay Radio.

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Funland Park Reconstruction Committee- Councilor Myers stated the Committee discussed the formation of a Fundraising Committee and the like.

Public Infrastructure Committee- Councilor Kirwan stated the Committee was presented and discussed: salting the roads in bad weather and decided more information was needed before making a decision, road realignment on Geer Rd, future water and sewer projects, and Ridgeway St combined projects.

Council President Report

Council President Hardin spoke regarding:

- Thanked City Manager Smith and Councilor Barron for their participation in the MLK March and those who attended the Fair Appreciation Dinner
- Asked that the Council please participate in the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Survey as requested by Mayor Drotzmann
- Asked that the Council please RSVP to City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong by this Friday if they plan to attend the National League or Cities Conference in March, and the Distinguished Citizen Awards Banquet in February.
- Reminded the Council that Hermiston will be hosting the 2020 LOC Spring Conference

Councilor's Report

The Council asked that the Council tables be angled to be able to have view of each other during Council discussions.

Councilor Barron mentioned the recent passing of NBA player Kobe Bryant as he was a great role model and icon; and asked who is working on the ordinance updates as they are very thorough, precise and well done.

City Manager Smith stated the City hired Dan Olsen, an attorney with over 25 years of experience in city government. Mr. Olsen also worked with City Attorney Gary Luisi and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Manager's Report

City Manager Smith spoke regarding:

- City Hall Updates to include:
 - Public Outreach Goals- Organizing a public online survey that should be out to the public this week. Organizing facts, information to consider, and online survey results to present at a Public Forum Session the week of February 17th with requested action from the Council at the February 24th City Council meeting.
- As mentioned by Councilor Myers, the Funland Park Fundraising Committee has begun raising funds for the new park. The Bank of Eastern Oregon has offered their very low discounted fees and interest rates as their contribution to the build, financing those contributors that would like to take advantage of a multi-year donation program.
 - Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter gave Funland Park updates stating he had presented at the recent Hispanic Advisory Committee meeting and received good feedback and will be incorporating those elements of the Hispanic culture into the new design. There seems to be some internal politics from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation regarding the approval for the Native American themed play structures, and does not believe the City will have the direct approval from the Board as it wishes to have.

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He will be working on other plans to fill this area instead. Funland should open by Labor Day.

Adjournment

There was no other business and Council President Hardin adjourned the regular meeting at 8:11pm.

SIGNED:

/s/Dr. Dave Drotzmann

Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC

City Recorder



GEER/HARPER REALIGN

January 27, 2019



Geer & Harper Intersection



2 Intersections & a Railroad



Geer & Harper Intersection



2 Intersections & a Railroad





CIP Inclusion

- 7 Reported Crashes 2004 – 2017 (2 since)
- 2017: Included in Year 4 (2021)
- 2019 Review: Included in Year 2 (2021)
- Cost Estimate: ~\$1.5M
- Largest individual project in 1st 4 years.





Planning & Design

- 2018: Traffic Counts
- 2018: PIC Outreach to nearby businesses
- 2018: AP Worked up five alternatives
- 2018: PIC reviewed at two meetings



Figure 1

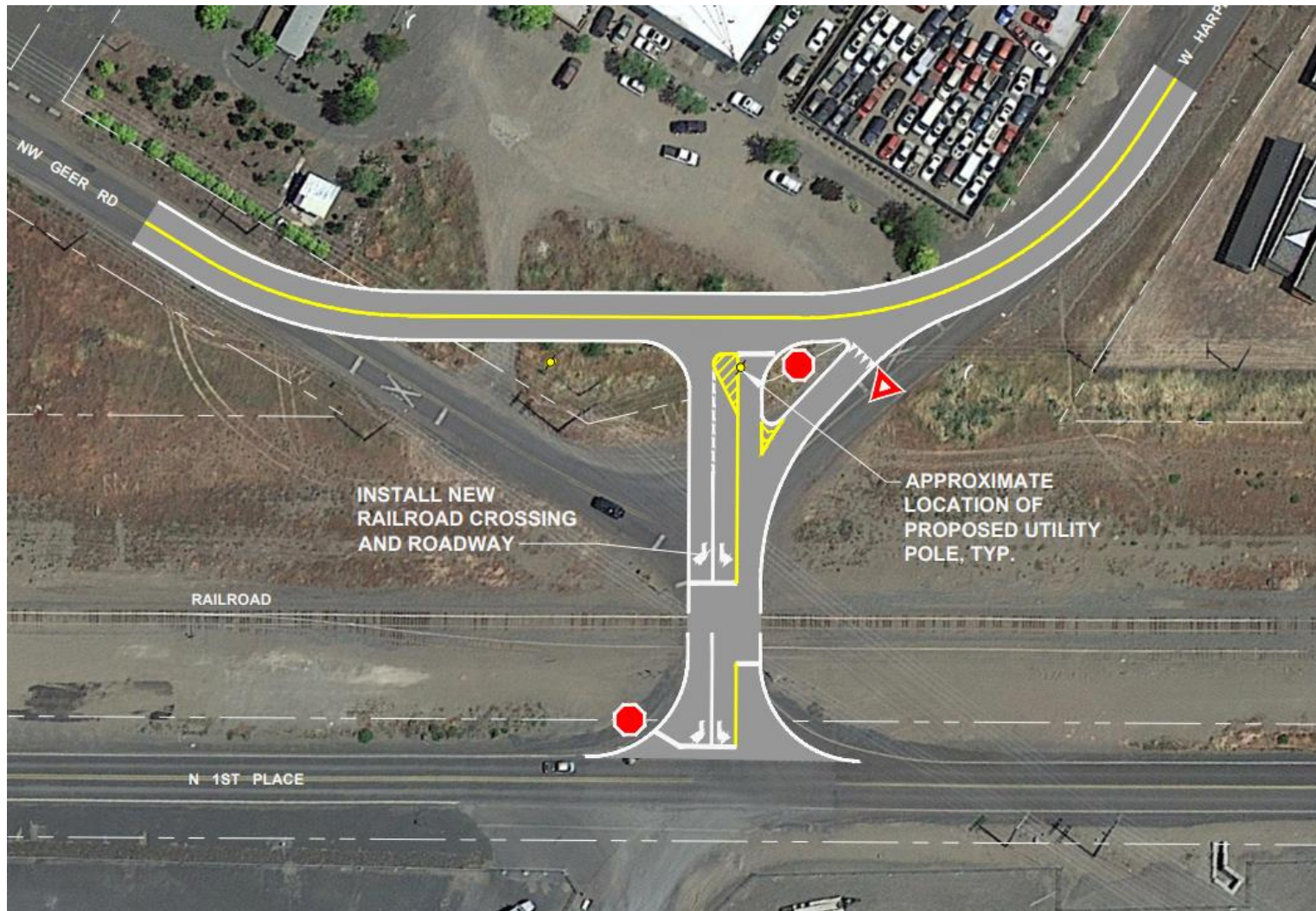


Figure 4



Figure 5



Peak Traffic Flow: Geer to/From 1st



Vehicle Stacking



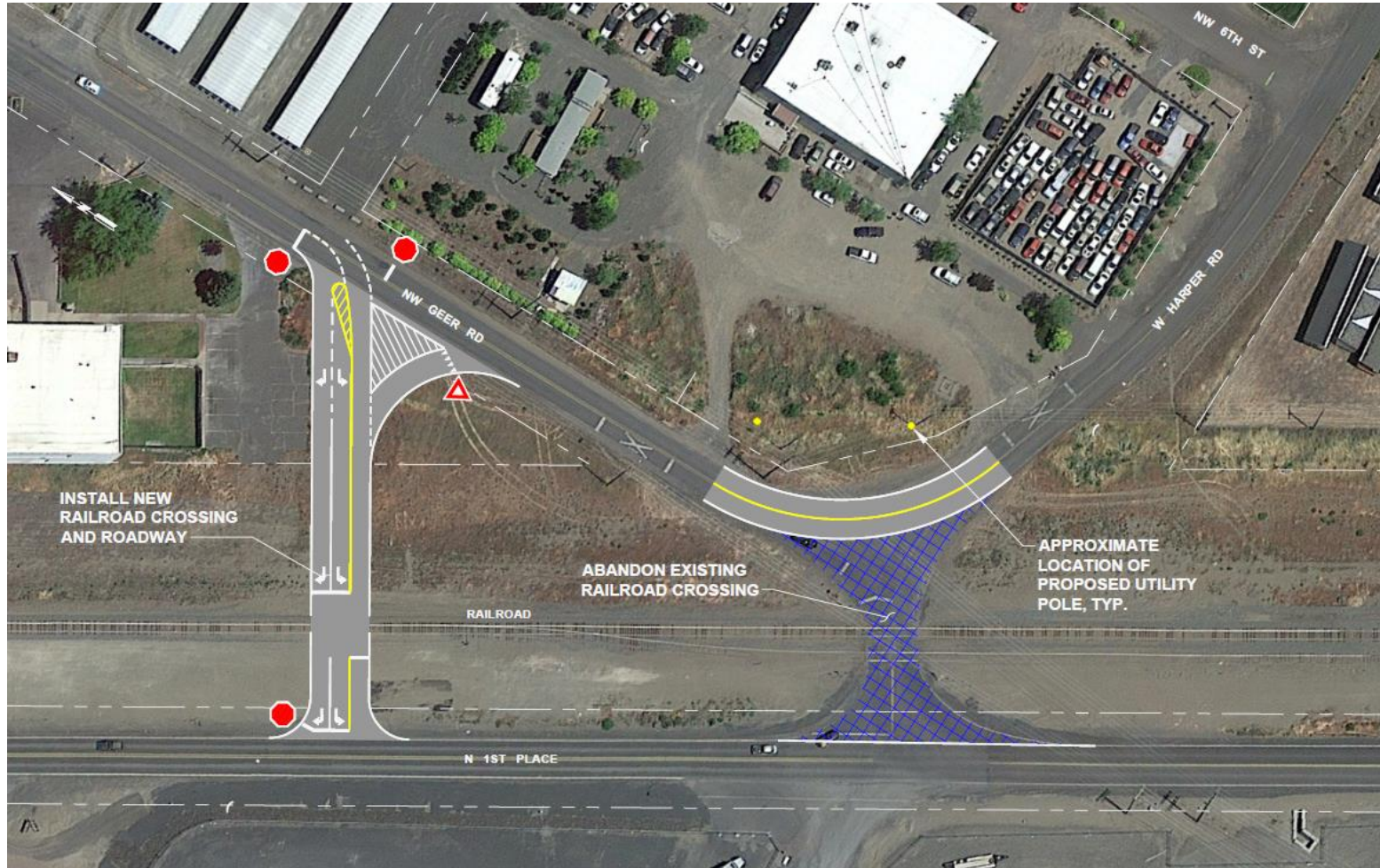
Utility Conflicts



Relocate RR Crossing?



“Shift” RR Crossing



Current Proposal- Figure 5



Two Parcels Necessary to Acquire



Parcels Looking East from Geer



View NE from Intersection



View North from Harper



1994



Image U.S. Geological Survey



2001



Image U.S. Geological Survey



2002



Image © 2020 Maxar Technologies



2018





Questions?

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