

ALDERPERSON AGENDA ITEM MEMO

To: **Mayor McBride, Dave Simpson, Jim Archambo, Alan Kesner**

From: Mike Morgan, Amanda Fuerst, Robin Brannin

Date: 4/8/24 (draft version)

Subject: Proposal to amend street and alley improvement assessment process

A. Background/Rationale

Some alders and staff have noticed residents becoming increasingly frustrated with our street and alley improvement assessment process in recent years. While City staff have worked to accommodate residents in certain situations, we would like to propose a more broad update of this process and the communications involved, which dates back about ___ years.

B. Key Issues for Consideration

While we appreciate that the City is struggling with public improvement financing issues, we are also hearing strongly from residents struggling with their personal finances due to increasing inflation rates and other costs. If we are going to ask for any tax increases or special assessments, we need to do a better job of explaining the rationale.

Our explanations of taxes and fees to residents can sometimes be too convoluted and complicated. The current communication environment is based on shorter attention spans due to an overload of information compared to years past.

We are hoping to help create a very simple and understandable process to communicate the costs, benefits, timing and other benefits of street and alley improvements.

Some examples include an alley reconstruction between 2900 N. 123rd Street and 124th streets where the residents on 123rd street had minimal access to the the alley with minimal benefit while the it was used almost exclusively by the apartments on 124th Street.

In other cases, young residents purchased a home unaware of the upcoming costs of a street reconstruction project assessment. Option there might be to include example of payment plan options on initial communication to residents instead of waiting until billing communication.

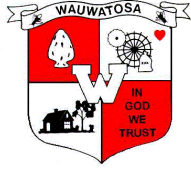
C. Fiscal Impact

Hoping to be neutral but needs further internal reviews.

D. Requested Action

Draft appropriate policy language and add to agendas during the second or third quarters of 2024.

E. Attachments



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TBD