

City of La Verkin

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La Verkin City Council Work Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, La Verkin, Utah

Present: Mayor Richard Hirschi, Council Members: Chuck Hardy, Patricia Wise, Ray Justice, Kelly Wilson, and Micah Gubler; Staff: Kyle Gubler, Derek Imlay, Kevin Bennett, Chief Ben Lee, and Christy Ballard; Public: Gail & Tasha Earl.

A. Called to Order – Mayor Hirschi called the work meeting to order at 5:30 pm

1. Proposed remedy of road and access at 50 S 100 E.

Mayor Hirschi said he would like to get this issue resolved as quickly as possible.

Kyle began by stating this is the same issue discussed at the last work meeting. Everything is resolved except for the south driveway that runs the length of the house. The original proposal was a 25-foot apron with a storm grate at the top. This is the only item the Earl family made a counteroffer on. They would like the asphalt to go all the way to the end of the house.

The Family's letter of concern was included in the packet for the Councilmembers to review. This working meeting is to decide what they would like staff to do to move forward with this issue.

Some of the choices discussed during the last meeting were to stay with the 25-foot asphalt apron, increase the asphalt by an additional 25-feet to the gate as requested by Gail, or we can asphalt all the way to down to the back end of the house. Once the Council has decided, the staff will draft a response to the Earl's counteroffer.

No money has been spent on engineering any of the items because the staff is waiting until we have reached an agreement.

The Council will then need to determine where the money should come from.

Councilwoman Wise pointed out they would be committing to the solution without knowing what the cost was going to be.

Kyle replied it doesn't make sense to spend additional money if we can't come to an agreement with the family.

Councilman Gubler asked if the staff had any idea of what the project would cost.

Derek said the original proposal was about \$40,000-\$45,000.

Councilman Hardy commented that paying for asphalt on private property sets the precedent that the City would do this for other people.

Kyle said the Earls have stated the City caused the problem and now it's up to the City to fix it.

Councilman Wilson stated that 20 years ago, when the road went in, there were at least two proposals made to the Earl Family that the engineers had come up with to fix the issue. Both of those proposals were rejected by the Earls.

He doesn't remember the proposals including curb and gutter but that would probably be the best way to get the water to the grates. The entire driveway was not included in those proposals either.

Kyle reminded the Councilmembers that the Earls would be giving the City some of their land for the storm grates. The properties along 100 East go into the road and that has caused some confusion. The City has been trying to clean that up for years.

Councilwoman Wise said she feels any property on a hillside in La Verkin, which there are many, is going to have the problem of runoff and erosion caused by any number of things. If the issue was caused by the City putting in a road is it an erosion problem or a steepness issue from the additional asphalt added to the road?

Kyle said the Earls stated it was an erosion problem caused by the City increasing the road. The family claims they have had to bring in 5-10 loads of fill to try and fix the situation.

Councilman Wilson pointed out if the grates were installed when the road went in the erosion would not have happened. The driveway could have been fixed at that time as well. The driveway is steep and does need to be fixed but he does not feel the City has the responsibility to put asphalt down the side of the house, only just the 25-foot apron into the driveway.

Tasha replied that the family feels the loose gravel is a safety hazard.

Her parents understood the issues with purchasing property on a hillside and they bought it how it was, these problems came from what it was changed to and the hazards that came from that.

Councilman Gubler suggested instead of installing curb and gutter put that money toward increasing the distance of asphalt on the south driveway since the family doesn't seem as concerned with the drainage issue.

Derek replied fixing the issue requires either a berm or curb and gutter to keep the water off the Earl property.

Councilwoman Wise said she understands the family's concern but if we do it in this instance then the City better be prepared to do it in any number of instances that may come up in the future when people hear about it. She feels the proposal is generous enough with the 25-foot apron.

Councilman Gubler asked Kevin his opinion with the concerns that have been mentioned.

Kevin said while it doesn't necessarily create precedence because it is solving a specific problem, it will be brought up again to the City. The City needs to have a reason to be going onto private property to do the improvement.

Councilman Wilson said he would like to get this resolved and feels the proposal is generous without the additional asphalt down the driveway.

Councilman Gubler asked the Earls if the curb and gutter was an issue.

Tasha said curb and gutter is a great option, it could help resolve the issue with pushing the water to the grates. The only reason she said they were willing to forgo the curb and gutter was to fix the hazard of the walking down the steep, gravel driveway. If extending the driveway is not an option, then absolutely they would like curb and gutter but that is something that needs to be discussed as a family.

The driveway was always gravel but the road changed the grade of the entire length of it and that created the hazard.

Councilman Gubler asked if the grates would only work with a berm or curb and gutter.

Kyle replied yes, there needs to be a berm in front of the house to move the water away from the property. The front yard has flooded multiple times.

The water runs into the grates and ties into the existing drainage on the east side of the street and that runs out to Center Street.

Kyle will email the information to the Earl family once a decision has been made.

The meeting ended at 5:53 pm

Minutes were done by Christy Ballard.

March 18, 2020
Date Approved

Richard M. Hirschi
Mayor Richard M. Hirschi

ATTEST:

Christy Ballard
Christy Ballard
City Recorder