



Safety & Service Committee  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 - 5:30 PM  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair Ryan Green called the Safety and Service Committee meeting for Tuesday, March 4, 2025 to order at 5:50 pm

Members Present - Ryan Green, Dave Selan, Jeff Barr (arrived at 6:04 pm)  
Absent - None

Staff present - Sean Staneart, Jack Liggett, Rusty Smart, Dave Delande, Don Barnard, Wes Kobel, Teresa Monroe.

Public present - None

2. Action on Minutes

- a. July 2, 2024; August 6, 2024; September 3, 2024; October 1, 2024; October 23, 2024; January 7, 2025

**ACTION:** Ryan Green moved to approve all en bloc; Dave Selan seconded and both were in favor.

**AYES:** Ryan Green, Dave Selan

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 2 - 0**

3. Sidewalk - 105 W. Jersey Street

Sean Staneart said he heard from a couple council members regarding this sidewalk along Williams street; this sidewalk was installed inconsistently with the city codified ordinances. The homeowner and contractor that installed the sidewalk did get approval from the city as it is currently installed, but it is deficient. A quote to replace the sidewalk was received in the amount of \$6,000. If the committee deems it necessary to fix, this could go to Finance Committee for review.

Dave Selan said he measured it, it is thirty-six inches from the actual curb, including the curb, to the inside of the sidewalk. Jack Liggett said new sidewalk, current standard, is five foot plus the curb. Jack said he talked with a contractor about drilling, pinning and extending the sidewalk to get the five-foot width, but the contractor said he would not do that, he said the pinning would not hold, it would break and tilt. His quote was \$6,000 to take all the sidewalk out and put a five-foot sidewalk in. Dave Selan said he researched variances for the property and could not find one given for a sidewalk, so why was it three feet. Jack Liggett said he thinks the homeowner referenced ADA being three feet for sidewalk width and the zoning inspector could not find anything to refute it so he agreed to it. Ryan Green said our zoning code only says "ADA compliant" and then you look at ADA

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compliant, and there is ambiguity if you don't know what it means, he said we have been pushing five foot everywhere. Ryan said the property owner called him and he told him he had to go with the code and that Terry (zoning inspector) has to approve it. Sean Stanearth said that Johnstown does have standard drawings for a sidewalk that do reference five feet, page 300-10 of the standard drawings approved in 2014. Sean said his understanding from Terry is that he had been instructed from his predecessor that five feet was the required width, he went out and told the contractor and homeowner that it had to be five feet and then came back, some calls were made, questioning whether that was able to be upheld because of their reading of ADA compliance that stated thirty-six inches, which is actually clear width. Sean said his understanding is that Terry got into some conversations with people that day and at the end of it, he felt that he needed to go with the interpretation that everyone else was having, of the thirty-six, because he didn't know where this standard for five feet was located in the codified ordinance. Sean said he was unavailable that day but did refer him to call the city planner or engineer if needed, but from what he heard, there was pressure to pour, the contractor was out there, if he didn't get to pour that day, it would be a disadvantage to the property owner. At the end of it, the zoning inspector gave approval based on all the conversations he had that day. Sean said originally, Terry told the property owner it had to be five feet but that changed by the end of the day. Ryan Green said the trouble is, when you go to our code it just says ADA compliant, Ryan said he asked Terry, we've been doing five foot everywhere else lately, how do you have them do five feet, what do you show them? He said Terry replied that he doesn't show them anything, he just tells them five feet and they do it. Ryan said well, what are you basing the five feet on? He said Terry told him that he just tells people five feet and they do it, Ryan said he told him he has to do whatever the code says. Ryan said the property owner called him, he looked at zoning and saw ADA compliance and said you have to go with whatever ADA & Terry say, but we didn't have anything to back it, and when he talked to Terry, that is when he said, how are you backing up the five-foot sidewalk everywhere else and he said I just tell them to do it and Ryan said well we have to go with what the code says, if you have a code to back it up then there it is, but none of us knew where to find that code, we didn't know it was in there. Dave Selan asked if he could reach out to Terry, Jeff Barr said he thinks that is the city manager's job, he feels like Terry may have already been between a rock and a hard place from the get go on this.

#### 4. Main Street large street trees

The city is not able to locate a previous tree assessment report done approximately four years ago. Staff is working to get a quote for a new assessment by a certified arborist.

#### 5. Other Business

1. All of the parts for the Clark Drive traffic signal are in with the exception of a battery backup, Jack said he will have them installed, and will have them install the battery backup equipment another time when they are out servicing something else to save a trip charge.

2. Ryan asked what the service schedule was for the year for road repair and fixing potholes. Jack said in the next thirty days, they will be getting more into pothole repair. Ryan asked if there was a schedule, Jack said he has asked the street department to drive the streets and hit worst, biggest potholes first, they are formulating a list. Jack said the problem with some roads like S. Kasson is there is no place to start and no place to end, there are a lot of streets that are really bad.

3. Ryan said he wanted to continue the conversation on snow removal in the downtown area and sidewalks. He would like to get some quotes and go to the Chamber of

Commerce for that and try to get the businesses working on that on their own before we go the enforcement route. Group discussion on removing the snow from the downtown once plowed, Jack said this has been done in the past, they do have a place to put it. Sean said he did not want to commit our employees to hauling it away. Ryan said he would get a quote from a private guy and take it to the chamber.

4. Jeff asked if there was a conclusion to the Williams street sidewalk. Sean summarized and asked if they wanted him to take this to the finance committee, the fix is \$6,000 for a new sidewalk. Jeff said he thinks we need to move this forward and get it fixed, the city does have some culpability, he doesn't care how it came about, it is an eyesore and a safety issue.

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to recommend that finance committee investigate the finances to pay for the new sidewalk; Dave Selan seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Dave Selan, Jeff Barr

**NOES:** Ryan Green

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 2 - 1**

Sean Stanearth said he will get with the Finance Director to see if we have the money without appropriating. Jack Liggett said he would get a second quote.

6. Adjourn

**ACTION:** Dave Selan moved to adjourn; Ryan Green seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Ryan Green, Dave Selan, Jeff Barr

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 3 - 0**

The meeting ended at 6:30 pm.