

Minutes
Planning and Economic Development Committee
February 1, 2016
6:00 PM
2nd committee meeting

Members present were Chairman Taft Matney, Committee members Terry Merritt and Scott Crosby. Community Development Director Van Broad, Economic Development Planner John Gardner, and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.

1. Call to order- Chairman Matney
2. Public comment
3. Reading and approval of minutes- Councilman Crosby made a motion to accept the January 4, 2016 minutes. Councilman Merritt said on page 2 second paragraph, demographics “based on the registered voter list in the last election” should be inserted. The last sentence of the minutes says you, and should be to. With those changes, Councilman Merritt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (3-0).
4. Reports or communications from city officers
 - a. Community Development- Van Broad said he has hit the ground running and is meeting with a lot of people on projects such as 1400 Old Stage Road, microbrewery possibilities, hotel possibilities, etc.
5. Unfinished business
 - a. East Butler corridor plan final report- John Gardner showed some documents. There will be some intersection improvements, the most significant addresses the intersection of Old Mill and Bethel Road. The report recommends realigning Old Mill to tie into the signalized intersection with Bethel Drive. If you do that, you won’t need to do any widening there. We also have recommendations for Murray Drive. The intersection will work better if you could shift Owens Lane from the railroad. DOT will fund the project and begin engineering this in 2019 if they stay on the current schedule. The most

important thing is to have council direct the Mayor to request changes in the TIP during the Greenville County Transportation meetings.

Councilman Matney said if the engineering starts in 2019, this project probably won't be started until 2021. John said the engineering will start in 2019, rights of way will be obtained in 2020, construction will begin in 2021 and probably be finished in 2022. This will be turned into a reconstruction project since Butler Road is in bad shape.

Councilman Merritt said he is not convinced on the Owens Lane relocation. If you are trying to go from West Butler and you are trying to go straight across onto East Butler or trying to turn right on 276, you have to contend with the two turn lanes. If they can't make the turn, they go straight and turn onto Owens Lane because they missed the turn to 276. You have people flying around you. People will be trying to make a right turn at Owens Lane no matter what. The DOT plan looks ok on paper, but if you try to contend with the traffic, it is not practical.

Councilman Merritt likes the idea of right turn only off of Owens Lane. Owens Lane doesn't really back up, so that shouldn't be the issue. If you try to turn left from Owens and go up East Butler, you create a delay. The other thing in the plan, people who are trying to turn left from the BB&T driveway onto East Butler can go into the median and wait for the traffic to clear. With this plan, East Butler will be four lanes. That may not help the bottleneck and will make it harder for people to make that left turn. The intersection at Bethel and Old Mill needs to be fixed sooner rather than later. He is friends with the families that live there and feels for them.

Councilman Merritt said he is not a fan of bicycles on the streets. He would rather them ride on the sidewalk. There are bicycle paths on Verdin and he wouldn't ride on those paths. John said that could be adjusted and maybe that is a better solution.

Councilman Crosby said he has some misgivings as well. Like Mr. Merritt pointed out with the changes at the railroad tracks. Councilman Crosby said he turns left onto Butler from the BB&T driveway and without the dedicated turn lane, which will be much more difficult. He is not in favor of eminent domain, so Councilman Crosby is concerned about the intersection of Bethel and Old Mill. that being said, he thinks it needs to go to full council.

Councilman Merritt made a motion to send this item to council with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

6. New business

7. Public comment

Leo Joyce: Is there a plan from DOT to close an entrance from Brookbend Road?

John Gardner: That is a recommendation.

John said this is not an official DOT document. This is a recommendation. This is a report to council, which council will or will not endorse. DOT will hear concerns and evaluate...

Leo Joyce: There is a line at Brookbend- southern or northern. If they close the southern end, will they put a park there? A park in the middle of nowhere that causes the city mowing problems, tree problems? As far as I am concerned, it will stop the people from leaving Holly Springs.

Chairman Matney: Remember, we are not doing anything with the plan. This is just to send it to council for discussion so everyone can talk about it.

Leo Joyce: I understand. I just wanted to get it out in the open.

John Gardner said he raised the same issues with the consultant. The consultant didn't see it as a major problem. He said he has been through a lot of public meetings through DOT and has seen a lot of projects change in response to public concerns.

8. Committee concerns
9. Adjournment- Chairman Matney adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk

NOTICE: A majority or quorum of City Council may attend a committee meeting.