

Staff Responses to Council Questions

June 20, 2017

5. Consent Agenda

What is a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan? What role would the Village have in administering the plan?

Similar to a 401K plan, a 457 plan is a type of nonqualified, tax advantaged deferred-compensation retirement plan that is available for governmental employers. It allows employees to defer compensation into the plan on a pre-tax basis. The Village's role would be to make the payroll deductions.

7. First Reading

Ordinances C-K: Building Codes

At the June 13, 2017 Village Council meeting, a Village Council member expressed concern that complying with current building codes on a house renovation or remodeling project could significantly expand the scope and cost of the project by requiring the owner to bring nonconforming elements of the existing house into compliance with the current code. The Village Council asked staff to determine when existing nonconforming elements would be required to comply with current codes.

Generally speaking, the building codes require the following:

- Improvements to the existing house are usually required only in the physical areas where work is proposed.
- Existing conditions are allowed to remain in place provided that these existing conditions were constructed to the building codes in place at the time of original construction.
- Existing conditions may be required to be brought up to current codes under the following circumstances:
 - Existing conditions do not meet the building codes in place at the time of original construction.
 - The proposed new work compromises the functionality and safety of the existing systems.

While most remodeling or small addition projects do not require changes to existing conditions, there are two types of projects which commonly trigger upgrades to existing conditions.

- Addition of plumbing fixtures - Remodels or additions which include additional fixtures (faucets, toilets, showers, tubs) often times require the replacement of existing small

water service lines with new, larger water service lines meeting current code requirements for size and water pressure.

- Addition of electrical fixtures - Remodels or additions which include additional fixtures (outlets, lights, light switches) often times require the replacement of the existing electrical panel with a new, larger panel meeting current code requirements. Typically this is the replacement of a 100-amp service with a 200-amp service.

The adoption of the updated 2015 codes will not affect the regulations described above. The concepts and examples above would not change whether the Village continues to use the 2006 codes or adopts the 2015 codes.

12. Council Member New Business

B. Motion: Direct Staff to Prepare an Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 of the Municipal Code to Require On-Site Detention for New Residential Construction

Please let me know how many permits for construction in excess of 700sf were issued between 2014 and today.

There have been 98 permits issued where the amount of net new impervious exceeded 700 square feet since 2014.

Attachments

rRemarks are attached.



rRemarks Data for June 20, 2017 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section	Agenda Item	Comment	Commenter
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	i am pro sidewalks on cross st and the surrounding area.	Adam Carey, 4524 Cross Street, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	Greetings Village Council, This is a quick note to say that I am in full support of sidewalks in our neighborhood! Our area of Downers Grove has very narrow streets and walking in the roads is a safety issue for children and adults alike. The area itself is in within walking distant to local businesses, Puffer School, the Belmont Prairie, the Golf Course, the Belmont Metra Station and the Rec Center. We should have the opportunity to walk to these places in a safe manner. There are many families that share my feelings and we would appreciate your support! Best, Lauren Singdahlsen	Lauren Singdahlsen, 2529 Indianapolis Ave, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	I am strongly in favor of sidewalks for the NW Belmont area. Sidewalks would provide a safe way to school for students in the area attending Henry Puffer Elementary School, they would link the neighborhood to local community facilities including the Belmont Metra Station, the Rec Center, Belmont Prairie, and Downers Grove Golf Course, and provide a healthy sense of community, while improving overall safety of the neighborhood. Although safety is the main concern for our neighborhood, our area was incorporated by Downers Grove over 5 years ago, and should have the amenities the rest of Downers Grove has. Please take these points into consideration when addressing this motion. Thank you!!	Raegan Cates, 2537 Indianapolis Ave, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	Hello Village Council, I am a commuter and walk to the Belmont train station each day. It would be very nice to have sidewalks in our neighborhood. The walk is especially bad when snow is on the ground and we need to walk in the car tracks. The narrow roads and lack of light early in the morning and at night is a bad combination. I also have two young children and believe they should be able to safely walk to school (it's less than a half mile from our home) rather than being bused due to hazardous conditions. Thank you for your consideration, Anders Singdahlsen	Anders Singdahlsen, 2529 Indianapolis Ave, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	It is imperative sidewalks are added to our neighborhood for the safety and well being of our children and residents. Sidewalks promote everything our village stands for. We want to be safe, to promote healthy choices, and beautiful properties. Sidewalks allow our children and residents and pets to go outside and enjoy our beautiful town. Our kids walk to school and I cannot wait for a tragedy to happen to act. All of us could not live with ourselves knowing we could have prevented it and didn't because of status quo. It raises our property values and it gives us the neighborhood feeling we all moved and live here for. This is such an important issue and one I feel we need to act on. Our community has so many kids and families who like to walk together with their children and pets and I feel strongly this is an easy vote to support. We all need to be outside enjoying and engaging in exercise safely and walking is one of the very best for a healthy lifestyle all ages can do. I cannot imagine anyone with a heart for others and safety for all that would not support the construction of sidewalks. Thank you for your time and consideration. With Sincerest Appreciation, The Zuerner Family	Zuerner, 2525 Indianapolis Ave, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	I would like to submit my support of the construction of sidewalks in the Belmont area. The area is full of young families out enjoying the neighborhood and it would be safer for them with sidewalks to do so. Thank you.	Shantel Smith, 4611 Drendel Road, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	I would like to submit my support of the construction of sidewalks in the Belmont area. The area is full of young families out enjoying the neighborhood and it would be safer for them with sidewalks to do so. Thank you.	Andrew Smith, 4611 Drendel Road, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	I am unable to attend the meeting this week, but want to voice my support for the addition of sidewalks to our neighborhood. As a mother of two children, I consider it an immediate safety need for the area. Sidewalks will allow all residents (regardless of age) to move freely between the neighborhood and surrounding areas including Puffer school, the golf course, and the Prairie.	Meredith Rogers, 4504 Drendel Road, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	Thank you for addressing the safety needs of the Henry Puffer North area. I strongly support the TAP commissions' recommendation to install sidewalks in the area. My family looks forward to safe travel to the many area attractions and the sense of community fostered by the addition of sidewalks in our neighborhood.	Aaron



rRemarks Data for June 20, 2017 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section	Agenda Item	Comment	Commenter
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	As we are unable to attend the village meeting we wanted to make sure our desire for sidewalks in the neighborhood is noted. We are first and foremost concerned with the safety of the residents who walk dogs, walk with children, ride bikes and walk to the various locations surrounding the neighborhood. We want all to have the capacity to do so in a safe manner. Particularly the children who walk to bus stops and/or Puffer school. The traffic in this area continues to grow as more people utilize the Belmont Metra station as well as other surrounding businesses, parks, etc. I also think sidewalks can connect us further as a neighborhood and community. I grew up in a very small town in Central IL and did not have sidewalks in majority of our village. It wasn't something that bothered me greatly when we purchased our home. It did bother my husband... My opinion has changed immensely given the increased traffic in this area and growth of the neighborhood. These reasons definitively warrant sidewalks to ensure the safety of the residents and visitors. Thanks you for the consideration to this very necessary request.	Jackie Olkiewicz, 4506 Drendel Road, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	<p>My husband, Dan Fife, and I are for sidewalks. My next door neighbors in 4520 Cross St. just sold their home which will be closing on June 27 to a young couple with an 18 month old son who will also be interested in sidewalks. There are many good arguments for sidewalks, including the safety of our residents, adding value to our homes, increasing a feeling of community among the neighbors, providing a space for people amid the increasing number of cars and bicyclists (I see groups of bicyclists nearly every day since school let out on Cross St. - our street is not wide enough to accommodate everyone at the same time, especially on garbage day!), etc. Many of those arguing against sidewalks are saying that they never needed sidewalks when they raised their kids around 40 years ago. Since the 1970's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downers Grove population has grown from 28,544 in 1970 to 49,715 in 2015. That is nearly DOUBLE in size. - I355 was built from I55 to 290 in 1989, and extended from I80 to 290 in 2007, drastically increasing traffic in the area. - I88 was initially built before the 70s, but was a 2 lane road and under a different name (I88 got its name in 1987). Starting in 2005, it was reconstructed and widened to 4 lanes from IL59 to York Rd. I believe around this same time exits were constructed on/off Ogden Ave. -Belmont METRA station was opened in 1996, and its recent changes in 2010 have drastically increased traffic in the area. -In 1992, the Chicago Tribune noted on how much more popular the Downers Grove Golf Course has become since course conditioning recently improved and new renovations and a learning center were slated for that August. That year they celebrated their 100th birthday and were published in the papers, increasing their popularity even more. <p>Many more changes have occurred in just the last 20 years including increase in the number of homes, businesses, #car to household ratio, etc. To say "My children were never hit by a car," is to act irresponsibly. I do not want ANY of our children to get hit by a car before some of our neighbors see how much their neighborhood has changed. Our streets do not have any lighting at night. My husband has almost been hit walking home from the train at night, and I recently almost hit a young woman walking her dog on Drendel at around 9:30PM. This is only a matter of time. Population will increase even further, more young families will move in over the next 10 years. I believe putting in sidewalks now will help prepare us for future growth.</p> <p>Resources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belmont_station_(Metra)</p>	Miriam Fife, 4516 Cross St, Downers Grove
First Reading	A. MOT 2017-7416 A motion authorizing the design of public sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area	I think this neighborhood would benefit from sidewalks. Because of the fact that the neighborhood is now incorporated and the village claims that this project will not raise our tax responsibilities, I don't see any real reason to not put in sidewalks. While this neighborhood does not experience a high volume of traffic, and in years past I could see why people wouldn't have interest in sidewalks. The quantity of distracted drivers (due to the prevalence of smart phones) on the roads these days, and the number of families with young children moving into this neighborhood right now. I see it as a disservice to the future of this neighborhood to not include sidewalks in the plan. I do agree there are clearly places that sidewalks in the neighborhood don't make sense, but along Cross Street from Ogden to the S-curve, and along Drendel from Ogden to Indianapolis I can not see a valid reason to not include sidewalks there. I try to not make this argument based on selfish ends, this decision will impact this neighborhood for years past my time as a resident here. When looking at a Pros vs Cons assessment of the decision, I can not see an enormous argument in the Cons column. There are definite worries about the quality of the design and work that would be proposed but the actual inclusion of sidewalks at its base, the arguments I can imagine and have heard do not hold the same weight as the arguments for. The street is dark, narrow, and slightly hilly creating blind zones when driving, especially at night. I don't want to be partly responsible for any incident in the future where someone is hit by a car because sidewalks would change the way the neighborhood looks. Regardless of the decision for or against, this is a friendly community, and if it is the will of the larger percentage of the community to not include sidewalks, I do not want to upset neighbors.	Dan Fife, 4516 Cross St, Downers Grove



VILLAGE OF
DOWNERS GROVE

Megan Miles <mmiles@downers.us>

Drendel sidewalks

3 messages

Tania <tyackle@comcast.net>

Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 10:09 AM

To: dgcr@downers.us

Cc: Brandon Yackle <brandon.yackle@gmail.com>

We are emailing to inform you of our support of sidewalks in our neighborhood (Drendel, Cross Streets). We are unable to attend the 6/20 meeting and wanted to inform you of our support of the project. Thank you.

Tania and Brandon Yackle
4520 Drendel Rd.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
[312.301.3820](tel:312.301.3820) cell
