

**STREETS COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 2, 2024**

The Streets Committee meeting was held on January 2, 2024 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Joanne Krejci, Vice Chair Linda Barath, Paul Marnecheck; **Council:** John Nickell, Mary Gorjanc, Mike Vos, Heidi Webber; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Assistant Law Director/First Assistant Prosecutor Steven Ritz, Wastewater Superintendent Mark Smith, Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi, City Engineer Justin Haselton; **Other:** Joe Pavlick.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of November 8, 2023 Committee minutes. Moved by Ms. Krejci, seconded by Mr. Marnecheck. Votes: Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Updates on sidewalks and connections

Mr. Haselton summarized that the Bennett Road Multi-Purpose Path project was complete, which was under construction last year.

2. Service Department Report

Mr. Cinquepalmi stated that he would send out the last two monthly reports the following day.

3. 2024 Road Maintenance Program

Mayor Antoskiewicz advised that the projects were complete for 2023, in which Mr. Haselton agreed; the York Road Resurfacing Project.

4. Sprague Road

Ms. Krejci mentioned that Sprague Road is now complete, which was open on December 12, 2023. Mr. Haselton confirmed that it was substantially complete at this point, with a couple of minor details remaining.

REMOVE FROM AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

1. Leaf Pick-Up Evaluation

Ms. Krejci wanted to discuss leaf pickup. Every year as it turns Fall, we receive a number of inquiries from residents as to why the City does not have leaf pickup. She noted that the City has evaluated this in the past and the committee has reviewed it briefly. She recalled that funds were a big issue. She wondered if any adjustments could be considered to allow for this. She desired to put something together for the actual cost that it would be for leaf pickup. If it were to turn out to be too costly for North Royalton, we would be able to go back to the residents and explain; show them the information. Ms. Krejci was uncertain as to whether leaf pickup would be a positive thing. We received questions on a yearly basis. She would like to be able to answer the residents. She was informed that Streets Committee would likely be the best place to begin.

Mayor Antoskiewicz stated that we are already somewhat in the process. He had spoken to Mr. Cinquepalmi, whereas it got pushed back. He indicated that we will do an evaluation and obtain some figures. He felt that when sharing the cost and what it would actually involve, folks may not truly understand the full picture. He has discussed this and would obtain some numbers, because numbers are only “part” of it. He noted that he would plan to prepare a full report.

Ms. Krejci commented that was what she was hoping for and then she could relay things to the residents. The Mayor explained that it may not be prepared for next month, however he could provide an update. It was his hope to have some information for Ms. Krejci. She mentioned that one resident in her ward, which own the company Best Equipment Company in North Royalton, had spoken to her. She went on to say that they have sold that equipment to surrounding cities. The owner had reached out to her to inquire if she would like to have anything, in which Ms. Krejci stated she would forward it to the Mayor. Best Equipment had conveyed to her the same point made by the Mayor, which was that buying the equipment is only a very small portion of what is involved.

Ms. Barath felt that we need the details and cannot just continue to say no to this. She wanted to be able to have the information if the answer is no. Mayor Antoskiewicz reiterated that they would begin working on it. Mr. Wos wanted to perhaps check around to see if there are any third parties that could be subcontracted to; perhaps obtain a quote. He has heard that there were cities that actually subcontract it out. He was curious to see what the difference would be in cost between internalizing it, or if we were going to subcontract it. He pointed out that we do that with our garbage collection; it was not an uncommon practice.

Ms. Krejci has done some research and she was uncertain as to whether any company, as a third party, would do leaf pickup. She believed that we mentioned previously, to have our former Director of Legislative Services research this. She mentioned perhaps we could do so once we are fully staffed in the Council office; calling other cities. Mayor Antoskiewicz agreed that some investigating could be done. The Mayor mentioned anyone that may practice this, may still do so, with the city doing part of it as well. He went on to say it is difficult, because most companies that are really into it are landscape companies. The ones that normally do it, may generally get rid of their people at the end of September or getting prepared for snowplow season; it is one of the two, and it makes it difficult. However, we will try to get as many numbers as we can and put together what we feel the true cost is; as well as how to do it in-house.

Mr. Marnecheck commented that it was a great question raised by Mr. Wos. His concern was, unlike trash, they only donate a portion of the year. He wondered if we are going to have to bid it out every year to attempt it. Furthermore, if a company agrees this year, but perhaps does it next year, whether that would put us in a position where we can't quickly prepare staff or equipment. He added, perhaps that is one of the reasons communities do not do it. Mayor Antoskiewicz has spoken to companies, whereas one of the issues has been when they lose their personnel from landscaping, they then sometimes bring some of them back on staff; perhaps for snow plowing. Although most of the time they do not need as many for snow plowing as they do for landscaping, they will keep those people; however, you are going to pay them. Therefore, whether you need them right away, or do not need them, you're still going to pay. He continued that part of that contract is you are going to pay them, because they have to keep them. That is part of the issue; you have that gap. There are many factors in this. We will try to address all the ones that we can think of. There is a factor when you get early snow, as we have seen in some cities, those leaves are sitting frozen in the ditches. When attempting to rake them, it is very hard. He added they then work overtime.

Mr. Wos spoke to the impact on leaves with wind and storms, whereas they will be sitting on the tree lawn. He continued that they go in the storm sewers. He mentioned that in ward six, we do not have storm water, we have a lot of ditches. He has residents that do not maintain their ditch, and you have leaves ‘build up’ and it creates problems. That has always been one of his concerns with the leaf collection part. As discussion ensued, Mayor Antoskiewicz stated we have a very good, strong amount of people in the City that do their due diligence and pick up their leaves. He explained that we would try to come up with a lot of different scenarios and quantify some of that. Ms. Krejci felt that at least it starts the conversation. She has also had some residents say they

have no interest in it and they feel that we do a good job; they are very used to it. She wanted to ensure that we look at both sides and agree. The Mayor agreed to make efforts for all perspectives.

Ms. Barath noted that she communicated with other cities, in which the people that do it are compassionately against it. For example, Olmstead Falls would have some of their residents throw in pumpkins. One or two of their machines are down at this time; which are tens of thousands of dollars. She has had residents tell her Rumpke does a good enough job taking the leaves away in most cases, therefore they do not mind; they are picked up and they are gone.

Mr. Marnecheck raised question to Mayor, stating that when bidding out the rubbish, we include the yard waste in the bid. He wanted to know if Rumpke may have an opinion if we did leaf pickup and they did not have the organic material. Mayor Antoskiewicz agreed. When we go to bid, we have not formalized any of that yet. That is one of the things we have to discuss. We are probably going to bid rubbish numerous ways. We are going to have a lot of different options. We will be looking at likely, three or four different ways of picking up the rubbish; seeing if we can save some funds. Also, what may be the best way to do it. Manually picking it up is becoming less and less of an option in today's day and age. We know what the feedback was when we just went with a recycling can. The Mayor reiterated that we will review it again. We will likely bid the jobs out, and bid the rubbish out two or three different ways; see how it all plays out. Ms. Webber inquired whether that would be in February. The Mayor stated he did not have an exact date. He believed we have until April or May. We must get it out in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Krejci, seconded by Mr. Marnecheck to **adjourn the Streets Committee meeting of January 2, 2024**. Roll Call: Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.