

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Resolution: #109-4-26-22-1, Acceptance of Preliminary Engineering Report for the Lead Service Line Replacement.

April 26, 2022

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
ROOM 035 –COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MEETING HELD AT 12:00 P.M.**

**SHAN GUNAWARDENA, CHAIR
KUMAR MENON, MEMBER
CHRIS GUERRERO, MEMBER
MICHELLE FULK-VONDRAN, CLERK**

Present: Shan Gunawardena, Kumar Menon, Chris Guerrero, Michelle Fulk-Vondran, Matthew Wirtz and John Perlich.

Shan Gunawardena: Good afternoon welcome to the public hearing for Resolution #109-4-26-22-1, Acceptance of Preliminary Engineering Report for the Lead Service Line Replacement for April 26, 2022. My name is Shan Gunawardena, Chair to the Board of Public Works. To my right is members Kumar Menon, Chris Guerrero and to my left is, Michelle Fulk-Vondran, Clerk to the Board. Before we begin, I would like to ask that all attendees please sign in for this hearing. Matthew Wirtz will be presenting.

Matthew Wirtz: Good afternoon Board, Matthew Wirtz Deputy Director City Utilities Engineering. This public hearing is a requirement as part of the state revolving fund process. We periodically partner with them to fund projects making investments in our neighborhoods and service areas. This Preliminary Engineering Report and the public hearing is all about lead service line replacement. The handouts provided shows the line from the home to the street and a map of replacement locations. Homes built prior to 1937 had a higher use of lead in the material and lead has been proven to impact health issues. There is an ongoing effort to remove lead piping, our challenge is that it is owned by the homeowner. We are working on programs to incentivize homeowners and make it affordable and get this project moving forward. We have prioritized three areas based on Census information, one is northwest of downtown, and two are southeast as can be seen on the map. It will be about 2,100 homes and estimated cost of \$11 million. We are hoping that a large part of the \$11 million will be grant funded. We will know in July if we are able to obtain this award. I am happy to take any questions.

Kumar Menon: This is a follow up to the pilot program we did with SRF help. We are the first City in the State to have that kind of assistance, correct?

Matthew Wirtz: Yes, that is correct. A few years ago, we partnered with SRF and started doing small amounts of lead service replacements. We developed a pilot program where City Utilities will pay upfront and the homeowner can finance their costs, which is a small fee on their water bill for up to 10 years. SRF gave us seed money to start that program. There are around 400-500 in progress. This is a national issue Fort Wayne is not alone.

Shan Gunawardena: Matthew based on current pricing do you know what it typically cost for a residential property?

Matthew Wirtz: Pricing right now is a challenge, but the typical range is under \$2,000 up to \$3,500. Just depends on how close the house is located to the sidewalk.

Shan Gunawardena: Any other questions? Is there anyone who wishes to speak for or against this improvement? If so, please state your name, address, and try to keep comments to a couple of minutes.

Shan Gunawardena: Hearing no comments, I will now entertain a motion to approve resolution #109-4-26-22-1, Acceptance of Preliminary Engineering Report for the Lead Service Line Replacement and close the hearing.

Kumar Menon: So, moved.

Chris Guerrero: Second.

Shan Gunawardena: All those in favor?

Chris Guerrero, Kumar Menon, Shan Gunawardena: Aye.

Shan Gunawardena: The public hearing is hereby adjourned. Thank you very much.

Meeting adjourned at 12:29 P.M.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

BY: _____
Shan Gunawardena, Chair

BY: _____
Kumar Menon, Member

BY: _____
Chris Guerrero, Member

ATTEST: _____
Michelle Fulk-Vondran, Clerk

Date: _____