

FLOODPLAIN PERMIT COMMITTEE MEETING
201 West Gray, Building A, Conference Room D

Monday, April 2, 2018
3:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT: Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works
Susan Connors, Director of Planning/Community Development
Scott Sturtz, City Engineer
Ken Danner, Subdivision Development Manager
Jane Hudson, Principal Planner
Sherri Stansel, Citizen Member
Neil Suneson, Citizen Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Carrie Evenson, Stormwater Program Manager
Amy Shepard, Staff
Shelly Williams, Capital Projects Engineer
Cort Westphal, Garver Engineering
Mark Daniels, Utilities Engineer
Alan Swartz, Alan Plummer Associates
Ann Stanford, Citizen
Dan Frashier, Citizen
Amanda Swinney, Prosperity Bank

The meeting was called to order by Shawn O'Leary at 3:30 p.m.

Item No. 1, Approval of Minutes:

All members were present and a quorum was established. Mr. O'Leary called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 19, 2018. Neil Suneson requested an update for an item discussed in the minutes from the prior meeting located at the Duck Pond on the University of Oklahoma (OU) campus. Mr. O'Leary agreed to give an update following the approval of the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Scott Sturtz. Seconded by Sherri Stansel. The minutes were approved 7-0. Mr. O'Leary gave an

update of the status of the project located at the Duck Pond. Mr. O'Leary stated that OU applied for a floodplain permit from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and City staff provided comments on the application. Mr. O'Leary stated that the permit was granted by the state, and one of the comments by City Staff was that they provide a No Rise Certificate, which had been provided. Mr. O'Leary offered to provide additional details upon request.

Item No. 2, Floodplain Permit Application No. 597:

Mr. O'Leary stated this application was for the removal of the existing bridge and construction of a new bridge on West Main Street over Brookhaven Creek in the Brookhaven Creek watershed. Carrie Evenson gave the Staff Report for this application. Ms. Evenson stated the project is being brought back to the Floodplain Permit Committee because the scope of work for the original project has changed due to receipt of over-budget bids. Ms. Evenson stated that the original Floodplain Permit # 568, which was approved in March 2016, involved the replacement of two 55' long by 9.5' by 6.4' CGMP arch pipes that were constructed in 1972. This structure was identified in the PBS&J Storm Water Master Plan as being "hydraulically deficient" because it is unable to convey a 10 year storm. This condition likely caused the bridge to sustain serious damage in the flood of August 19, 2007. City crews made temporary emergency repairs at that time to keep the bridge in service. On January 27, 2009, the Norman City Council approved programming Resolution No. R-0809-96 requesting federal funds to replace the bridge and roadway approaches on West Main Street over Brookhaven Creek. On August 11, 2009, City Council approved Contract No. K-0910-56 with Garver, LLC for the preliminary design of this project. On June 11, 2010, City Council approved Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. K-0910-56 for the final design of this project.

Ms. Evenson stated that 80% of the total funds to complete the project are federal funds and that the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is overseeing bids for the project. Ms. Evenson stated the modification of the project will consist of approximately 2,140' of channel improvements including rip rap along the toe of the channel, extending 2' above the toe of the slope at a 2:1 or 3:1 slope at varying widths and depths based on existing conditions. The existing channel bottom will remain. Vegetated MSE walls and rip rap extending to the top of the bank will be installed in areas requiring additional armoring based on higher velocities. The channel improvements will allow a larger discharge below the bridge without raising the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) anywhere along the creek. Ms. Evenson stated that on April 12, 2016, City Council approved Resolution No. R-1516-100 for modification to the stream banks along Brookhaven Creek for the proposed Main Street bridge. Ms. Evenson stated that several utilities have been relocated as part of the project. Ms. Evenson presented pictures of the current site location, downstream of the bridge, and engineering plans for the project. Ms. Evenson confirmed all applicable ordinance requirements had been met. Ms. Evenson stated that staff recommended approval of Permit Application No. 597.

Mr. O'Leary asked for questions from the committee. Sherri Stansel asked for clarification on the changes to the project and materials. Mr. O'Leary stated that there are two primary changes, one is reducing the length of improvements on the channel by approximately 750 feet and referred to the design engineer, Cort Westphal with Garver, LLC, for additional information on the changes to the materials used. Mr. Westphal stated that the initial design included gabion baskets but that there were changes made based on the structural integrity of the gabion baskets and that they were replaced with rip rap and vegetative mechanically

stabilized earth walls to provide a better performing structure. Mr. Sturtz stated they are focused on the use of more natural materials that help reduce the overall speed and flow to allow the water to soak in and infiltrate where possible. Mr. Suneson asked if the modifications reduced the cost of the project. Mr. Westphal stated that the cost of the application changes are comparable but the overall cost was reduced due by reducing the length of the project and the removal of a solid retaining wall. Mr. Sturtz added that a large majority of the cost savings could be attributed to the means and methods available to install the applications downstream. Mr. Sturtz stated that staff met with bidders to discuss the costs and understand the areas for reduction. Ms. Stansel inquired if additional City Council approval would be needed upon approval of the permit. Mr. O'Leary encouraged the committee to discuss and make a possible recommendation. Mr. Sturtz stated that after review of the previous agenda item and resolution, he would like to motion to approve the permit without additional City Council action. Ms. Stansel asked if the new application was submitted to extend the expiration of the permit through construction completion. Mr. Sturtz agreed that based on timeline it should be brought back to the committee. Mr. Suneson asked about the channel bottom and why it would be retained in its current condition. Ms. Evenson stated that environmentally and hydrologically, the preference was to make as few alterations to the channel as possible. Ms. Evenson stated that the banks will be reinforced and a rip rap toe installed that will protect the flow line. Shelly Williams stated that mitigation of the vegetation removed during the project has begun. Mr. Sturtz added that over 1,800 trees are being planted along the creek near Prairie Creek Park which is still in Brookhaven Creek but is upgradient of the bridge location.

Mr. O'Leary asked for questions from the public. Ann Stanford inquired about the start date of the project and the timeline. Ms. Williams stated that bid opening and award are scheduled in May 2018 and are being bid by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, with plans to start construction in mid-June 2018. Ms. Stanford inquired if this work would affect the homeowners' responsibility for flood insurance and if this project would change the floodplain maps. Mr. O'Leary stated that the project does not intend to change the floodplain but there are areas where the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) may change. Mr. O'Leary clarified that no changes would need to be made on the homeowners' part during construction. Dan Frashier stated he thought the original project plans showed that the floodplain area would shrink considerably along the construction area of the creek. Mr. O'Leary stated he did not think there would be an impact to the floodplain and deferred to Garver for further comment. Mr. Westphal stated that when the area was hydrologically modeled, there was no rise in the BFE or change in elevation, so the floodplain boundary would remain the same. Mr. O'Leary clarified on the map the location of the floodway and floodplain and stated that during the original design there was a hope that the project would have a positive impact on the floodplain boundaries in the neighborhoods, but at this point that impact isn't certain. Mr. O'Leary stated that FEMA was in the process of updating the floodplain map for Brookhaven Creek, including the area in question, that would perhaps alter the floodplain boundaries and be completed in the next year or so.

Mr. Sturtz motioned to approve Floodplain Permit Application No. 597 without further Council action. Susan Connors seconded the motion. Approved 7-0.

Item No. 2, Floodplain Permit Application No. 598:

Mr. O’Leary stated this application is for a waterline replacement project under Brookhaven Creek east of the intersection of Robinson Street and 36th Ave NW in the Brookhaven Creek Floodplain. Ms. Evenson gave the Staff Report for this application. Ms. Evenson stated that the Norman Utilities Authority is the applicant and was represented by the Utilities Engineer, Mark Daniels, and the project engineer is Alan Swartz with Alan Plummer Associates. Ms. Evenson stated the project involves replacement of deteriorated 12-inch and 24-inch waterlines with a new 30-inch waterline on the south side of Robinson Street between the Patio Apartments, located east of Brookhaven Creek, and the Brookhaven Elevated Storage Tank located just east of Estates Drive. Ms. Evenson presented pictures of the current site location along the path of the new waterline and engineering plan and profile sheets for the project. Ms. Evenson confirmed all applicable ordinance requirements were met. Ms. Evenson stated that staff recommended approval of permit #598.

Mr. O’Leary asked for comments from the applicant or engineer. Mr. Daniels reviewed some of the details of the project and stated that this waterline had previously experienced damage and is in need of replacement. Ms. Connors inquired if this waterline crossed Robinson further east near 24th Ave NW. Mr. Daniels stated that the waterline crossed under Robinson from the detention area at 24th Ave NW. Ms. Stansel inquired if the erosion along the drainage area that runs parallel to the waterline would be addressed by this project. Mr. Daniels stated that his understanding is that this area is scheduled for future street widening and drainage improvements and would be addressed at that time. As part of this project, improvements would be made to the drainage ditch to minimize erosion, stabilize the slopes, and install sod.

Mr. O’Leary stated that there is a transportation project that has been in the works for many years to address the traffic in that area of Robinson Street, which would include stormwater infrastructure improvements. Mr. O’Leary also stated that the relocation of the waterline would accommodate the future transportation project.

Mr. O’Leary asked for questions or comments from the public. Amanda Swinney, a representative from Prosperity Bank, inquired if the construction would impact their entrance just east of the intersection of 36th Ave NW and Robinson Street. Mr. Daniels stated that the construction impact should be limited to the eastbound lanes of Robinson Street. Mr. O’Leary stated that there will be some traffic disruption during the construction but that the streets would not be closed. Mr. Daniels stated that construction was scheduled to begin in late summer of 2018. Mr. Sturtz motioned to approve Floodplain Permit Application No. 598. Ken Danner seconded the motion. Approved 7-0.

Item No. 4, Miscellaneous Discussion:

- a) Mr. O’Leary stated the April 16, 2018 meeting has been cancelled.
- b) Mr. O’Leary stated the filing deadline for the May 7, 2018 meeting is coming up but that no applications have been received.

Item No. 5, Adjournment:

Mr. O’Leary called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Suneson motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Sturtz. Motion was approved 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.