

Item 23-1128: Resolution #10-R-22, Alternate Lawe Street Truck Route

Common Council

Wed, Oct 18, 2023 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 11:23

All right, moving on. We'll take up the item from municipal services this is item 23-1128 Resolution 10-R-22 Alternate Lawe Street truck route. As a note to the Council, this this item came out of Municipal Services with a motion to deny being approved so it's before you as a denial. We have a motion and a second to approve. Open the floor for discussion. Alder Meltzer.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 11:59

Thank you. I want to start by thanking Director Block, Director Homan, Deputy Director Kress, and Traffic Engineer Lom for their time and work on this resolution, including the help I received before submitting this resolution with both the language and timing. I also want to thank Appvion for their participation in this discussion and engagement with the neighborhood. I'm especially grateful for the night driving concession that Appvion proposed.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:25

The Lawe Street corridor in question is predominantly rental properties. I think we need to take a deeper look at the truck route question, perhaps filtered through our Health In All Policies ordinance. My constituents have shared their concerns about pedestrian safety, and they have shared that they do not want a truck route combined with bike lanes. My constituents have made their case that they want the truck route designation removed from Lawe Street, and I support them and I represent them.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 12:48

Staff has provided an analysis and then an opinion that the truck route designation should remain unchanged at this time. One point of reasoning is the risk that such change might impact the federal grant that we have obtained for the Lawe Street reconstruction project. This is a concern that I have to take seriously. We have a \$2 million grant, and Lawe Street is in desperate need of reconstruction, and it was postponed in the five year plan a few years ago. Delaying this project again would prolong and worsen the already poor conditions that the corridor experiences.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 13:19

I am satisfied that this resolution has fulfilled its original intent. Staff has explored the removal of the truck route from Lawe Street, staff has provided a report, and staff's recommendation is to take no action at this time.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 13:33

This resolution came out of committee with an amendment asking staff to complete some studies before March of 2024. At this time, I'm making a motion to amend the resolution back to its original language. And I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and vote in favor of the resolution. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 13:51

All right. We have a motion and a second to amend. Any discussion on the amendment? All right, Alder Del Toro.

Alderson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 14:12

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I encourage us to support the original language of the resolution here. One of the big criticisms of the original language was that work was—work that was done—that this language requested staff to do work that they had already completed. At that point in time, the co-author and I, my co-author and I, felt like this report remained incomplete. Since then, we've learned a few things, and we are thankful for all of staff that has worked diligently in answering our questions and engaging with us in disc— and the community in discussion.

Alderson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 14:48

Here's a few things that we've learned. First, after discussions with city staff and doing more reading, we have found that—well here's what we learned. The city recognizes that harm, pollution, and damage that trucks do to our residential roads. We also recognize the environmental impact does not need to be quantified here because undoubtedly the trucks that frequent Lawe Street have purely negative effects on infrastructure, condition, and environment. Three, we've heard the voice of our constituents and the overwhelming majority that request the city remove the truck route designation from Lawe Street. Four, the Public Works Department will hold public participation events to incorporate public input into the future design of Lawe Street, and we hope that these public servants can recognize that in the future, trucks belong on commercial streets and not residential ones.

Alderson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 15:38

We don't actually know—here's one thing we don't actually know is if funding will definitely be affected if the truck route designation were to be removed. However, we feel that the current state of the report from staff is sufficient to help us make an informed decision on the original state of this resolution. As Alder Meltzer mentioned, we feel like the original intent of this resolution has been met, and so I asked you all to support it. Thank you

Mayor Jake Woodford 16:09

Further discussion on the amendment. Alder Meltzer.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 16:19

Thank you. Because the amended version is what sits before us and the amended version asks staff to do additional work, I encourage you to support the amendment to return to the original language so that there is no longer the request for studies to be due by March of 2024. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 16:37

Any further discussion on the amendment? We have a motion and a second to amend. Hearing no further discussion, please cast your votes. Got you Alder Croatt. Motion passes 11 to four. The item has been amended.

Mayor Jake Woodford 17:06

Alright, back to the item as amended. Again, coming out of committee with a recommendation to deny. Any further discussion? Hearing no further discussion, as a reminder an aye vote upholds the denial from committee, a nay vote would turn down the denial and pass the item. Any questions? Hearing none, please cast your votes. Thank you, Alder Croatt. Motion passes eight to six. Alder Schultz, we'll note your abstention. So, the item has been denied.

Mayor Jake Woodford 18:10

All right, let's move on now to the item from Community and Economic Development. This is item 23-1199 request to approve the neighborhood grant program requests submitted by the historic central neighborhood. We have a motion and a second to approve any discussion. Alder Hartzheim. Yeah, Alder Fenton.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 18:24

I voted backwards on the last item. I understand that this puts us in a mess—

Mayor Jake Woodford 18:37

Okay.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 18:38

—but...

Mayor Jake Woodford 19:06

All right, if it's if it's all right, let's handle the Columbus school business that's before us. We have a motion and a second to approve. Let's get that taken care of. And then we can entertain a motion to reconsider, so that we can we can re-record that item.

[Cut]

Mayor Jake Woodford 22:05

All right. Given our previous discussion, does anybody want to make a motion. Alder Fenton?

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 22:22

Yeah, I'd like a motion—to make a motion to reconsider, with apologies to my colleagues, for the print being too little for my old eyes, to reconsider item 23-1128.

Mayor Jake Woodford 22:41

Alright, we have a motion and we have a second to reconsider. Any discussion on the motion to reconsider?
Alder Schultz.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 22:50

Thank you, Chair. Could I request a vote notwithstanding on this vote?

Mayor Jake Woodford 22:53

Yes. Although let's first get it on the—we'll get—let's get it reconsidered and then we'll handle that piece. So, we have a motion and a second to reconsider. Any discussion on the reconsideration? Hearing none, all those in favor, please signify by saying aye. **[Council members vote “aye”]** Any opposed?

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 23:15

Nay.

Mayor Jake Woodford 23:16

All right, the ayes have it, and the item is before you for reconsideration. And so just to get this back on the table, let's have a motion on the item again, just to just to clear it up. So, we have a motion. Okay, let's get it before us again. Should have a motion button. Just need a motion and a second.

Mayor Jake Woodford 23:59

Alright, we have a motion and a second to approve the item as previously amended. There's been a request made to have the vote notwithstanding which should clear things up a little bit. An aye vote will pass it. A nay vote will deny it. So, is there further discussion on the item? Yeah, go ahead.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 24:18

That means we're kind of reversed to what we were last time?

Mayor Jake Woodford 24:20

Yes. This is where—

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 24:22

Now we're reversing this back?

Mayor Jake Woodford 24:23

Yes, yes. Yes. So yeah, just to clarify when an item comes out of committee with a recommendation for denial, an approval upholds the action of the committee, but a vote not withstanding takes the item up as a as though it's been moved and seconded for approval. So, this time around with a vote notwithstanding, what that'll mean is an aye vote will pass the resolution as previously amended. A nay vote will deny the resolution. Alder Doran.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 24:58

Thank you I'm going to encourage my colleagues to vote no this time around on this resolution. The authors of the resolution have stated on several occasions now their intent here is to have the truck route removed from Lawe Street. The staff has given us a recommendation that we should not be removing the truck route for a number of reasons. The changing of this resolution back to its original language now leaves open the door for asking staff to do more work and staff has done hours and hours' worth of work on this already and has stated, I think fairly clearly, that there isn't more information that will come forward that will change that recommendation. So, I'm gonna encourage my colleagues to vote no so that we can be done with this discussion at this point. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 25:53

Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 25:55

Thank you. The intent of the resolution was to explore the opportunities. Whatever other intents any of us might have in our political career or to follow the wishes of our constituents have nothing to do with this resolution, this resolution had its intent. Part of the intent was that staff not spend money. That's why we just amended it to remove the extra studies that have been asked for as it came out of committee. Right now, staff has recommended that we take no action. That was the report that they gave in this resolution. They outlined their opinions, one of which was, I consider, a financial risk. So, if we approve this resolution today then we are saying we accept the result of the staff study. If we deny this resolution, then I believe we say that we don't value the work that staff did in the exploratory process. So, I would encourage us all to vote in favor of this resolution. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 27:16

Alder Del Toro.

Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 27:17

I just want to echo what Alder Meltzer just said here. This—a vote yes here indicates that we value the input and the work that has been done by our staff. We might respectfully disagree with their conclusions, but in—by no means are we apologetic for asking staff to do city work. That is part of what this resolution was intended to do, and they've done that diligently and cooperatively and we applaud them for their efforts. So, thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 27:49

Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 27:51

Thank you, Chair. I would like it to be clear that my no vote in this regard will not at all affect how I feel about the staff work that has been done in this regard.

Mayor Jake Woodford 28:02

Alder Fenton.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 28:03

Thank you, Your Honor. Um, so when I watched the municipal services committee, the authors actually requested that the resolution be received and filed, and no other action taken on it. And it was the committee's vote that it come to Council. The committee chose to take further action on it over the objections or request of the authors. So, it came before Council. The authors seem to have made it really clear that they believe that the action asked when the resolution has been completed. So, I honestly have no problem with having the resolution pass as it is amended, not asking staff for further work. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 28:56

Any further discussion? Hearing none, we have a motion and a second to approve. This is a vote notwithstanding so an aye vote passes the resolution as amended. Please cast your votes. Motion passes eight to seven. Item has been approved.