

Item 24-1362: Boldt LU/Trout College/Drew Occupancy Permit Extension/Modification through 6/1/2025. Kimball Street Occupancy Permit Extension Through 8/4/2025
24-1377 2025: Public Works Department Budget Discussion

Municipal Services Committee

Mon, Oct 21, 2024 4:30PM

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 01:04

We have no public hearings or appearances, so we will move directly to our action item, 24-1362 Boldt Lawrence University/Trout College Drew occupancy permit extension modification through June 1, 2025, Kimball Street occupancy permit extension through August 4, 2025. Can I get a motion?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:29

Move to approve.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 01:30

Second.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 01:30

All right, we have a motion and a second. Does anybody from staff want to tell talk about this at all? All right. All right, Deputy Director Neuberger.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 01:42

Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to point out that traffic division has received the traffic control plan on this, and they're very close to issuing it. So, just to be clear, the configuration of the College Avenue closure that's being extended here, as well as the Kimbell Alley closure is the same configuration that we've been seeing up to this point, until the big crane showed up. And then the Drew Street configuration would actually open Drew Street up to two-way traffic, and then they would have the east sidewalk closed. So, there would just be southbound traffic and northbound traffic to accommodate that lane closure on Drew Street.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 02:25

Thank you. Any questions comments from up here? All right, hearing none. We'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor please signify by saying aye. That passes four zero.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 02:36

In our information items we—24-1377, the 2025, public works budget public works department budget discussion. I'll just open up the floor for anybody who wants to have early questions, or anybody from staff. Director Jungwirth, do you want to have any comments from you or...?

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 03:06

Thank you, Chair. Just wanted to say that we're available should anybody need to reach out to us in the interim. We sent back a number of responses on Friday that we had coming in through the week, so I know those probably got inundated getting out, but got to tackle through all of those. And I ask for your patience with it being my first budget cycle, not having been involved until about a month ago. So again, if there's nothing I can answer, I will utilize the excellent staff that we do have here to assist. Thank you.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 03:41

I personally appreciate the responses that we've been getting from everybody. So, it was—I see them, and I'll cross that off my list for my colleagues who were speedier than I. Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:57

I have a question, Director Jungwirth. Since this is your first year at it, do you have any questions for the committee?

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 04:04

Good one. Good one. Did you raise your hand?

[She asked this question of Deputy Director Neuberger who said that he had not.]

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 04:11

I thought you were reaching.

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 04:15

At this time, I do not. You know, like I said, it's been very helpful to be getting these questions in advance. It has helped me familiarize myself with the budget. At my previous endeavors, we did not do the email questions and feedback. It was predominantly phone calls, which is also completely acceptable and fine from my perspective, but it again has given me a lot of opportunity to wrap my head around some of the intricacies of the budget. So, is there anything, I guess, generally speaking that you guys want to see with the budget Saturday coming up? You know, any significant kind of items that you see that you would like an explanation or a larger explanation on?

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 04:59

I see. Alder Croatt over there without a microphone, looking like he's—

[Aldersperson Croatt retrieves a microphone.]

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 05:03

What number is that?

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:05

Attorney.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 05:07

I will turn—all right.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 05:09

Chris says go for it. Um, I really didn't come here with any questions. I was here to observe the discussion or listen to the discussion. But one thing that, um, I was thinking about yesterday, and haven't gotten through all the budget myself, but I paid a visit to the yard waste site, and I guess I'm curious as to, you know, the changes that have happened there the last couple years in regards to service levels, in some cases, hours of operation. Wondering if—and you don't have to answer this tonight—just wondering how that's going. I was going to have a conversation with there, with the person working, but that was very busy, so I didn't take up their time. Just kind of wondering resident feedback, what are we hearing? Are things working well with, you know, not accepting garbage type or trash type items, that kind of thing. Just general feel for how things are going at yard waste site.

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 06:03

I appreciate that, and I will—I do not have the answer at hand, so I will reach out to the staff and follow up on that. As far as—I did have a brief conversation on some of the updates with Deputy Director Loper, and he did indicate that there, you know, haven't been any major concerns or heartbreak over it, so I think it's going fine, but I again, will dig deeper into that, just to ensure that we haven't heard anything.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 06:31

Thank you. I appreciate that, because I sometimes get inquiries from constituents about which days is it open. And I know everybody's kind of getting used to the, you know, the new, newer timeline and what's accepted and what's not. You know, I used to, I used to take things like bulky type junk, there, and so I've had to adjust to myself as a citizen, but just wondering how things are going and constituent feedback.

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 06:56

And I think one positive is that we are not too far from county facility, so it makes it to where it's not super difficult to go to an alternate location, but as with any transition process from both ends residents and for staff, it's just going to take some getting used to and working through.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 07:12

Right. Okay, thanks.

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 07:13

Thank you.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:13

Alder Meltzer.

Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:15

Yeah, sort of piggies backs off of that, but I know that when we started making some of these changes, and people were struggling to dispose of mattresses. A number of my constituents raised the concern of, are we going to be seeing stuff dumped? Are we going to be seeing trash dumped in locations throughout the city now? So has there been any issue with that?

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 07:40

Yes. Please. So, I recall in years past that that had been something of an issue, kind of in the South Point Commerce Park area, before that area had built up to the degree that it is right now. So, I would say that that issue has kind of taken care of itself to some degree, because the amount of development now that's been added in the last few years. That was the only area that I was aware of where there was kind of a chronic concern over dumping, and nothing has nothing has emerged in my communications with COM DEV regarding that becoming something that's kind of come back into the into the forefront. So that that would be just one anecdotal response that I could offer.

Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 08:30

Thank you. That's good to hear.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 08:33

I'm gonna back up just a little bit to the whole questions and answers on the budget in general, and just more to—I think I speak for all of us in that we appreciate the effort that staff—directors and other staff go to answer those questions ahead of time, because we started this, I guess, your predecessor to this chair.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 09:03

Sitting to my left. [Motions to Alderson William Siebers]

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:04

Okay, okay. So, we started doing the questions and collating them and sending them out to everybody, and I think for alders and staff, it makes for a much more efficient and shorter budget Saturday. So, I personally appreciate all the work that's done in the interim, so that we can be efficient about getting our work done on budget Saturday. And kudos to the person who started it, right?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 09:36

I think it was Kyle Loebner.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:39

Yeah.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 09:40

Alder Loebner from—the previous district 13.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:46

So anyway, it's a good tradition, and I certainly hope it will continue. Any other comments questions on the budget?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 09:56

I really appreciate the thoroughness that staff has brought to answering the questions. I think that, you know, some of us have asked the same question in a slightly different way, and instead of just copying and pasting a response, I've been able to see a little more nuance by seeing the two different responses. So that was something that I really appreciated. I felt like that, you know, even when other people had the same question as me, I was able to learn more from reading the answer that they got because we worded our questions differently.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 10:33

And I think we appreciate that this team may have a little bit more work than other departments because of the capital of the five-year plan, and a lot of most of that being in your area. So anyway, thanks for all of that.