

**Ward Planning Commission
Public Hearing
Sidewalks
March 25, 2019
6:30 PM**

Chairman Meadows called the meeting to order. Introductions were made of all present.

Guest

Mike Montalbano	108 W 3 rd Street, Ward	Commission Member
Gary Meadows	14 Windsor Park Dr, Ward	Commission Member
James Weir	1154 Cocklebur Rd. Ward	Council Member
Helen Huitt	104 B E 3 rd Street, Ward	Commission Member
Tyler Madding	48 Castleton Dr. Ward	Commission Member/Firefighter
Morgan Travis	9 Marshall, Ward	Citizen
Deborah Staley	6 Griffin Street, Ward	Employee City of Ward
Charles Gastineau	2 Circle B Dr. Ward	Mayor
Shane Phillips	340 Pintar St, Ward	Commission Member/Firefighter
Wayne Knight	10 Industrial Dr. Ward	Commission Member
Bruce Jones	106 N. Holly St, Beebe	Water/Wastewater Superintendent
Randy Staley	6 Griffin St, Ward	Street Superintendent
William Tremaine	21 Marshall St, Ward	Commission Member/Firefighter
Tony Reaves	104 E 2 nd St, Ward	Fire Chief
Beth MacLaird	31 Old Country Lane, Cabot	Guest
Oz Richie	17200 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock	Guest
Anthony Reaves	104 E 2 nd St, Ward	Firefighter

Sign in sheet attached also.

Chairman Meadows thanked everyone for participating in the public hearing. The meeting was for the purpose to gather feedback on sidewalks for the City of Ward. This will be for future developments not current residence or commercial property. After the feedback is recorded the Commission will begin the process of putting the information together and presenting it to the City Attorney. The City Attorney will then create an ordinance to be presented to the City Council for approval after all legal matters have been explored and the desires of the public and Commission have been included in the ordinance. The current sidewalks have been constructed under the Safe Routes to School program. This is a grant program that the City has participated in. The third phase is at the bidding phase as soon as the Arkansas Highway Department has released it for bid. The City has been notified that next grant cycle has opened for applications and the City will be participating in the next round. Questions: which side of the street, utility lines location, historical issues, cul-de-sacs and also the increased budget for the City of maintenance and repair? Safety is also an issue. This ordinance will not be retroactive. It will only concern future development after the ordinance is passed. Another consideration would be whether the street was curb and gutter or open ditch. It is best to have some open area between the street and the sidewalk whether open ditch or curb and gutter. Another consideration is when would you build the sidewalk either at the completion of the subdivision before the final plat is accepted or as the homes or structures are completed. If built before the structure the sidewalks will suffer during the construction of the homes. Cross walks will need to be considered also. What will be the grade of the sidewalk in reference to ADA compliance?

Ms. Morgan Travis spoke about the safety aspect of sidewalks. She related how sidewalks enhanced the cities she had lived and traveled to.

The street superintendent proposed it would be best to put the sidewalk on the side of the street that has the least utilities.

The next public hearing will not be until the draft ordinance has been drafted. Deborah Staley will contact City Attorney Chris Lacy and let him know that Chairman Gary Meadows will be contacting him to start the draft of an ordinance. Chairman Meadows has collected information not only from the meetings with Tim Lemons and James Weir but also from other cities in the state that has sidewalk ordinances.

Helen Huitt motioned; Tyler Madding seconded that the public hearing be closed. Chairman Meadows called the meeting to a close.