**Comments on Revision to Brick Street Ordinance**

**Ken Jones- March 8, 2017**

Overall, the revisions in this draft are aimed to define preservation of our brick streets while maintaining flexibility for the city to alter them.

Paragraph A – unchanged

Paragraph B – Defines which brick streets are considered historic. New brick streets (e.g. North) may be maintained under a less restrictive manner since they are, in fact, new. Fifty years is established since it is the current definition of historic as used by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Paragraph C – If possible, we want our brick streets to remain brick streets. Historic brick streets get some extra consideration.

1. The brick pavers provision is reasonable given that the city has a supply of historic brick pavers and there is a commercial market for historic brick pavers.
2. I understand from talking with Jenny that while we have to install curbs in a manner to provide water-runoff, we can adjust the design a bit for brick streets. We just want the city to use a design that minimizes loss of bricks.
3. It is pretty common to see the transition from asphalt to brick that is very sloppy. The asphalt is on top of the brick, creating a raised and uneven surface. This creates a hazard to pedestrians. Since a lot in this ordinance is about safety and compliance, it seems reasonable to require that a bit of care be used where different pavement types meet.

Paragraph D – Quite honestly, some of our current exposed brick streets are in trouble. South 12th obviously needs work. But given the precedence of 6th Street downtown, the city is not likely to have the funds to commit to a major reconstruction in one move. Therefore, I would think that long term the city will need to decide if a gradual remediation effort is viable or ultimately replacement. The brick streets should generally require less maintenance than asphalt / concrete streets, but they do require work. That’s the point of the long-term plan is to give them some equal footing with the streets that routinely get funds.

Paragraph E - Since paragraphs F3 and I define that the Codes and Standards must be met, then this paragraph attempts to make sure that the Codes and Standards also protect historic streets. Without this paragraph, paragraphs F3 and I are an easy way for a future administration to back-door undo this entire ordinance.

Paragraph F – This paragraph is generally left as originally drafted. We have added a provision for repairs that may be needed very quickly to maintain traffic flow or safety.

Paragraph G – This is all about dialog and trying to avoid another 6th Street uproar. The HPC is included since they may have a perspective and/or expertise to offer. Adjacent property owners are the ones who benefit from the street (in terms of property value) – they should at least know what decisions are being considered that may alter the value of their homes. Note that the city retains the ability to make quick changes due to safety/traffic issues without notification.

Paragraph H – No change from original draft.

Paragraph I – No change form original draft.