

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: MAIN STREET ALLEY (DOUGLAS AVENUE TO KELLOGG AVENUE)

BACKGROUND:

The City of Ames Public Works Engineering Division was notified by Alliant Energy about a leak in their gas main in the alley north of Main Street between Kellogg Avenue and Douglas Avenue. The leak was repaired, but they recognized that the gas main needed to be replaced. In looking at the amount of alley repair that would be needed with the replacement of the gas main, they asked Public Works staff if it would be possible to reimburse the City for the cost of the alley paving needed for their gas main replacement. Public Works was then approached by the City of Ames Electric Department requesting to work in the alley to remove an underground transformer and place above-ground transformers in the area. This would involve more pavement removal and patching in the alley.

After discussing the issue with Alliant, City staff investigated the current condition of the alley and looked at how Alliant's work would affect the integrity of the alley. In looking at the condition of the alley, it was determined to be in poor condition and any patching to it would not improve its condition and would likely increase maintenance. It was also noted that there appeared to be some issues with drainage in the alley.

Taking into consideration the amount of proposed removal and replacement of the alley, Alliant's willingness to reimburse the City, and Electric's proposed work, replacing the entire alley is recommended. The alley will be replaced with 8-inches of concrete in the tire path and a 4-foot strip of pervious concrete in the middle of the alley (above the existing storm sewer). This approach to design would accomplish a significant reduction in long-term maintenance, and would be a sustainable approach to addressing the drainage issues, which contribute to the decreased integrity of the alley pavement.

Engineering has estimated the cost of the alley to be approximately \$123,000, which includes design and administration. Engineering staff will work with Alliant Energy and Electric to set their reimbursement amounts based on anticipated work once approval for this project is received. Engineering has identified remaining funding in the amount of \$44,166 from the Pearle Avenue Reconstruction Project to contribute to this project and will identify additional funding as needed to move the project forward if funding is secured from Alliant and Electric.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve City staff to move forward to finalize an agreement with Alliant Energy on the reimbursement for this project.
2. Reject the project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving City staff to move forward to finalize an agreement, Alliant Energy can replace a defective gas line and the alley can be repaired in an acceptable manner for area residents. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council accept Alternative No. 1, thereby approving City staff to move forward to finalize an agreement with Alliant Energy on the reimbursement for this project.