From: BRIDGET WANDERER
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Fw: Stormwater runoff on Gharrett St
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 8:16:52 PM

The email below was sent to Jordan Hess and is being forwarded to the entire City Council. Time limitations in this situation limit timely hard-copy notice.

Pastor Tom Lemmons, of Lighthouse Baptist Church at 5425 Gharrett, can be reached at the church at 327-7428.

From: BRIDGET WANDERER <bridgetrhye@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2021 7:56 PM
To: jhess@ci.missoula.mt.us <jhess@ci.missoula.mt.us>
Cc: Tom Lemmons <tclemmons68@gmail.com>
Subject: Stormwater runoff on Gharrett St

Mr. Hess: I spoke with you once before about the stormwater drainage issue on Gharrett Street. Stormwater runoff from Gharrett is entering private property at 5425 Gharrett, overwhelming the private storm drains on the property, creating large ponds, saturating the soil and creating an unstable slope at the back of the property. Stormwater entering private property from a public right-of-way is not considered acceptable to engineers I understand it is illegal. In addition, if the slope fails, several properties adjacent to 5425 Gharrett will be affected, including those below on Ancabide Lane. To further complicate the matter, 5425 Gharrett is in the City and property west of it, including Ancabide Lane, is in Missoula County.

There is nothing the owners at 5425 Gharrett can do to keep the volume of water in the public right of way from entering their property. To install a curb, gutter and sidewalk would shorten their driveway approach by about 7 feet, in addition to raising it 8 inches, making the driveway slope from the property to the street unmanageable in the winter. The upstream flows from Gharrett, 55th, another development off of 55th and another side street all collect at that location and have been overwhelming storm drains in the area for years. The property south of 5425 hardened their lot about 2.5 years ago with curb and gutter, so the excess storm water now bypasses that lot and is routinely entering 5425 Gharrett. An engineering solution is required.

The City is aware of the issue. They have spoken with the representative of 5425 Gharrett, Pastor Tom Lemmons and there was correspondence between the parties last year. The City's last comment I am aware of is that correcting the problem will be a large project. To my knowledge, scheduling the project has not been done, nor has it been included in the City budget.

When I heard that the State of Montana would be receiving $3 billion dollars from the Federal

Government in addition to whatever funding is routinely anticipated, I called Brad Tschida to see if this project could be included in plans for the funding. Apparently that is a possibility, as sewers (stormwater or sanitary) and natural resource projects may be considered. (Storm sewers exist to keep raw storm runoff from entering natural bodies of water and are therefore natural resource related). My thought is this: using some of this funding for this project could be a win/win situation for both the City and the private property owners who are or who will be affected by the situation on Gharrett St. The City would be using funds it would not normally have had, the South Hills would stay in place as no slope failure would occur that would send City property down into the Bitterroot, and the private property holders along and below Gharrett would no longer face annual flooding, ponding and the threat of a slope failure.

Brad Tschida will be calling me back in the next couple of days after he meets with several committees, Appropriations among them. I would like to tell him that some City representatives support the concept of funding a Gharret Street storm drainage project with the Federal funds. The way I see it is, this absolutely has to be done to prevent slope failure, lawsuits and a lot of problems, so why not do it now with these funds?

Coming up with a cost estimate on short notice for a project like this should not be a problem for an experience estimator in Public Works. Surveying costs, A&E design fees, a construction cost estimate, admin and inspection fees from the City, and other routine costs could be estimated by Public Works within a day or two. The cost of similar projects in the area is known to Public Works and could be a good basis for estimating.

When I spoke with you previously you were interested in knowing more about the situation. If you are still interested please call me at 406-251-5484 for more information. (It is a land line. I will be home before 10 am and after 1 pm tomorrow). Pastor Lemmons has given me permission to speak to whomever is interested about the situation. Thank you very much. Bridget Wanderer 4015 S. Russell Missoula 251-5484 bridgetrhye@msn.com

Sent from Mail for Windows 10