

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Administrator Ron Johnson

SUBJECT: John and Phyllis Althoff Sanitary Sewer Issue

DATE: May 11, 2016

BACKGROUND

In December of 2015, the Althoffs had a sanitary sewer issue at their residence. A sewer line, approximately 200 feet long, runs downhill from their house into a manhole in Colvill Street. The line was clogged with roots and they hired someone to fix the issue. The contractor installed erosion control materials as a part of the project to protect Colvill Street and the related storm and sanitary sewer structures.

The Althoffs appeared before the Public Works Commission on a couple of occasions subsequent to the problem requesting reimbursement of some, if not all, of their expenses. The primary point of discussion was that of responsibility. The line from the manhole to the Althoffs did not appear to be of the size that would be installed through a city project. Further, it was noted that city code section 53.36 Maintenance and Ownership of Private Sewer Pipes and Facilities states "It is the responsibility of the user or owner to maintain the sewer service pipe from the main into the house, building or other point of initial collection. All sewer pipes ... and other private sewer system works shall be installed and maintained in good operating condition at the user's sole expense." The Public Works Commission denied reimbursement of the expenses.

Althoffs subsequently, during the public comment period at a Council meeting, requested that the City Council consider their request. The City Council referred the item back to the Public Works Commission for reconsideration.

The Public Works Commission again denied reimbursement for the repair of the sanitary sewer service line, but agreed to recommend that the City Council approve reimbursement of \$649 to the Althoffs for the expense related to the erosion control measures taken.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Approve reimbursement of \$649 to John and Phyllis Althoff for the expense related to the erosion control measures taken during their December, 2015 sanitary sewer line repair project.

Attachment(s): N/A