



Legislation Text

File #: ID 18-0003, **Version:** 1

Resolution Authorizing City Attorney to Institute Proceedings to Condemn a Portion of the Property of Premier Stores, Inc. Located at 3901 North Church Street in Connection with the Pisgah Church Road Sidewalk Project

Department: Legal
Council District: 2

Public Hearing: NA
Advertising Date/By: NA

Contact 1 and Phone: Ted Kallam, Engineering Manager, ext. 2883
Contact 2 and Phone: John P. Roseboro, Deputy City Attorney, ext. 2320

PURPOSE: The City seeks to acquire a proposed Margin Tract of 1,708 square feet, and a proposed 6 foot Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) of 1,531 square feet of the property owned by Premier Stores, Inc. located at 3901 N. Church Street, designated as Parcel No. 0092895 in the Morehead /Gilmer Township for the Pisgah Church Road Sidewalk Project. The Property Management Section of the Engineering and Inspections Department (PM) requests Council to authorize the initiation of condemnation proceedings because it has been unable to negotiate a purchase price with the property owner.

BACKGROUND: PM attempted to negotiate a purchase within the total appraised value of \$39,442.00 for the property. An independent appraiser, Charles D. Foster, General Appraiser A1070, was contracted by the City to perform the appraisal. The appraiser used generally accepted appraisal methods and calculated the value based upon the nature of the taking and the square footage taken. PM sent an initial written Offer to Purchase to the property owner on May 18, 2017. PM made several attempts to purchase the property within the appraised amount, but its efforts were not successful. Therefore, PM recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Attorney to institute proceedings to condemn the required property. Following City Council's approval, the Legal Department will send a letter to the owner giving him at least thirty (30) days' notice of the City's intent to file an eminent domain lawsuit. After the lawsuit is filed and discovery is completed, a mediation or Commissioner's Hearing, or both, are held to try to resolve the matter with the property owner before trial. Additionally, the parties are free to continue negotiations through the date of trial.

The Pisgah Church Road Sidewalk Project is to provide pedestrians with a safe walking route along Pisgah Church Road, connecting existing sidewalks from North Church Street to Battleground Avenue.

The acquisition necessary for this property is a proposed Margin Tract of 1,708 square feet, and a proposed 6 foot Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) of 1,531 square feet for the property located at 3901 North Church Street.

The anticipated date for start of construction is June, 2018, with an anticipated completion date of June, 2020. The property is zoned CD-C-M (Conditional District-Commercial-Medium).

City staff further recommends that the City Council authorize payment of the estimated amount of the value of the property to the Clerk of Superior Court for disbursement to the owner. This will allow the City to take possession, which is required before work for this Project can commence on the property.

BUDGET IMPACT: The funding for this eminent domain action is budgeted in Account Number 401-4546-01.6012 Activity #A15138. This is a federally funded project. A minimum of \$39,442.00 will be expended to acquire this property, in addition to any litigation costs and/or settlement agreements.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED: City Council approval of a resolution authorizing the City Attorney to institute proceedings to condemn a portion of the property of Premier Stores, Inc. in connection with the Pisgah Church Road Sidewalk Project.