

The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee

held a meeting on **Wednesday, March 4th, 2026** at 6:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Utilities: Chair Mitchell, Davis, Oswald, Armstrong, Rothgery

Others: Lipian, Doehne, Cerra

Excused Absence:

Administration and Department Heads Present: Safety Service Dir Pyanowski,
Law Dir Deery, Engineer Schneider

1. The matter of approval of meeting minutes from the Utilities, Safety & Environment Meeting which met, on February 4th, 2026, and circulated on February 9th, 2026.

Motion was made by Mr. Armstrong and second by Mr. Oswald to approve the 'said' meeting minutes as circulated.

MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of discussion of the 2026 Street Resurfacing Program and discussion of the 2026 Street List for each Ward.

Referred By: Chair Mitchell

Chair Mitchell said that per Finance Dir Pileski, each ward has \$328,571.43 to spend on street resurfacing.

Engineer Schneider said he did his best to get numbers for the streets which were turned in to him. He split up the wards on the list that he handed out to everyone and up on the screen and monitors. On the list, he explained that the X which was next to a street, it's a street which was turned in.

Chair Mitchell reminded everyone that street resurfacing is the most important thing a ward council person can do for the residents. Thanks to the 2016 ½ percent income tax that the residents have renewed, we are able to continue the street resurfacing program with 2.3 million to spend this year. The Street Scan tool that they have been working with this year is awesome. Chair Mitchell said that she went through all of the streets in her ward which were listed as 'failed' and drove each of those streets and added to the list she turned into the Engineer's Dept.

Mr. Oswald said he was told that it's difficult to calculate all of the concrete streets in the 4th Ward, how does he choose and get numbers?

Engineer Schneider said that with concrete, the method of getting what is needed

In regards to Antioch, he did aerial photography and measured and added a little buffer. The good thing with concrete is if they have leftover and they finish the street, they can

continue around the corner, it's not difficult to spread the money out in the ward with using the concrete.

Chair Mitchell asked Mr. Lipian how he felt about dividing the money up for each ward a different way.

Mr. Lipian mentioned a proposal where we distribute the money equally amongst the wards based on previous years. This time it's a little different because we spent money on the street scan which shows that we have unequal conditions of streets, ward by ward. He's thinking to concentrate the money on the worst streets first in the wards which have the highest percentage of failed and poor streets. The pie chart that he and the Engineer came up with, was that the ward with the worst failed and poor streets was Ward 2, second place was Ward 4 and the ward which only had 3% of poor streets was Ward 3. He said if you look at not just failed streets, but the condition of all streets, regardless of intensity, Ward 1 is in the second worst ward in terms of streets and the number one worst ward is Ward 2. He sees an equal distribution of funds, but he wants to see the greatest amount of good to happen with this money. And we want to get the greatest number of streets done as they can, and this is a great opportunity to use this street scan information. He wanted to know what council thinks about this suggestion.

Chair Mitchell asked Dir Pyanowski, was this street scan program just to identify the streets which were in poor condition, and were they not intended to tell us how to distribute the funds.

Dir Pyanowski said it is the committee's decision, but it is a tool and it does provide the information that Council Lipian is suggesting, if the committee chooses to do it that way.

Mr. Oswald said he thinks it has merit in talking to a few other people then maybe if we split up 90% of the money and the balance of the 10%, we focus on the failed streets. He doesn't feel this is something we should not be talking about at this time. He feels we should have a special meeting after all this year's street list is finished and to figure out what we're going to do for next year. He doesn't think it's a good idea to make any changes on the distribution of funds for this year.

Mrs. Davis said she has many residents in her area that are upset with all the streets that are failing in her ward. They understand that the way we distribute the funds that we cover everyone and every ward because everyone pays taxes. To give more to one ward because the street scan says one ward is worse than another, and we should divide it up the way we've been doing it. Maybe next year we can have a conversation about it, but her vote is to continue to do it like we have.

Dir Pyanowski wanted to remind everyone that the product that was purchased is a three-year agreement but it's a one-time scan with an updated report the second and third year. The thought process was that we're not going to fix all the failed and poor streets in one year.

The list of streets will still be current and they will update it with all the work that does get done this year, which will include paving, patching, repairs and crack sealing. It will reflect that work, but, they will not scan again next year. You will be working with the same report with updates.

Chair Mitchell said the software is awesome. She used the software to look at just the failed streets in her ward. By the calculations her ward would get 11% of the money, but she wouldn't be able to do what she does in her ward with just that. She is not in favor of the suggestion brought up by Mr. Lipian.

Mr. Armstrong said he looked briefly at all the lists and there are a lot of streets that aren't even in the poor or failed category that some have chosen. So, they must've already made the decision of what they want to fix in their wards. He still feels in his opinion that a lot of the streets should be done in-house or figure a way to chip and seal them. We have to consider a lot of different factors that the street scan doesn't give us. No, we won't get all failed or poor done with 2.3 million.

Chair Mitchell said she has alleys, one that is horrible is Irondale and she didn't even put them on the list because it's an alley.

Mr. Cerra said they've talked the last several years that some wards aren't going to be able to get caught up and he doesn't see any mathematical equation that will ever happen with the even fair and poor streets. He thinks we need to target the failed streets before we do poor streets, or we're going to be going backwards again. If that means one ward may get a little more than another, it's his two cents.

Mrs. Rothgery concurs with Mrs. Davis, the residents in each ward have their council representative and they need to be heard. She understands that sometimes some money can be shifted, if one ward didn't need it all and also with the Irondale alleys and things like that, could we do those in-house?

Dir Pyanowski said the Street Dept currently doesn't have the equipment, personnel or the training to do a full alley. They have done some patchwork. They did a larger patch project on 10th Street Alley. These are low traffic areas. The Street Dept fabricated an in-house a smoothing trailer, but needs some modifications. It would be a significant investment in equipment to upgrade and would have to expand staffing and training. They are going to expand the crack-sealing program this year, which is a preventative method to prolong the life of the streets. They have asked for an extra \$100,000 to go toward crack sealing. They can only crack seal when it's above or below a certain temperature. Last year they ran out of product by the end of the year. He would also like to be able to use some overtime to get more done when the temperature allows. The street scan also provided a list of streets which needed crack sealed and he provided that list to the Street Dept and asked them to assess those streets and start making their work list for April. Last year was the first year the city did the crack sealing and it was a learning curve.

Chair Mitchell said the Street Dept did a fantastic job patching up some of the potholes on Murray Ridge.

Mr. Doehne said his ward has the least number of failed streets, but one of his concerns was he does have poor streets and those streets will turn into failed streets. If council wants to come up with a new policy, he would be for that. He has gotten calls about some streets and he willing to help if there are funds left from his ward.

Mr. Oswald said there is a lot of information and we keep saying this study is a tool. He has always driven the streets before we had this tool. He has looked at some of the failed streets and some aren't actually that bad. So, we shouldn't take away the human element of the process. Maybe there is one house on that street and since there's not a lot of traffic, maybe that street can wait. And the Street Dept has been doing a decent job on patching small potholes and areas.

Mr. Armstrong said if we take away the extra from Kenny, we're taking away \$131,429 that he wouldn't receive. Ed has a potential of \$259,571 to play off with Mr. Lipian's equation when it comes to the percentages. Things could get shifted with the equation. Ward 5 and 6 both have a percentage of 11% and that equates to \$75,571 to give up. That would leave an extra \$85,000 in Mr. Lipian's ward. Mr. Armstrong said he is open to talking about this.

Mr. Lipian thanked Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Oswald who said his idea has merit. He thinks its creative analysis with the street scan. Everyone agrees that it's been a great tool and a great idea. He feels the same way about the concept of unequal distribution of money per ward because we have unequal conditions of roads and we're skittish about it but, if we did it and saw all the roads which got done, everyone would feel good. Each ward has tax paying residents and those residents travel from one ward to another ward on a regular basis so everyone benefits from resurfacing of all roads. So, it's the way we've always done it versus new creative solutions. He respects everyone's difference of opinion. He feels we could do a lot of good if we do the old method. He respects whatever decision the Utilities Committee decides and he will make the best decision for the ward that he represents. If we can stretch the dollar the best way that we can, ward by ward it benefits everyone.

Mrs. Rothgery said this is not the way it's always been done. It used to be the poorest streets are the ones that got done.

Chair Mitchell said she's been on council for 17 years and we've always done an equal distribution.

Engineer Schneider said when they were ranking them as 1, 2 or 3, and mainly the streets which were ranked 1 were getting done. And there were times when there was a lot less money and they were getting done based off the rankings.

Chair Mitchell said it was always an equal distribution of the money.

Mr. Cerra said, back to the point of dividing it equally, he came on board in 2014 and we've been doing it this way since then. However, some of those years, there was little money to work with and one year we got \$165,000 for the whole city and another year it was around \$300,000 and they chose to get 3rd street done for 11 cents on a dollar through a grant and we had to have an engineering study to do it. Thankfully in 2016, the ½ percent income tax passed and we've been doing it this way since.

Chair Mitchell asked the committee how they want to do this for this year?

Mrs. Davis said she would rather that they divide up the \$328,571.43 to use in each ward.

Mrs. Davis made a motion to divide \$328,571.43 to each ward equally and that motion was seconded by Mrs. Rothgery.

Chair Mitchell moved on and asked Ward One Representative, Mr. Lipian for his street list.

Mr. Lipian said he respects the decision of the committee and he is happy to move forward. He asked if the amount of \$70,000 for asphalt or concrete repair?

Engineer Schneider said that is set-up for asphalt. He assured Mr. Lipian that asphalt is being used on many streets and said a concrete base is a solid base and a good foundation to build off of. Asphalt doesn't last as long as concrete but when concrete gets chopped up it doesn't last as long either.

Mr. Lipian thanked Engineer Schneider for all the work he and his staff put into the project. He said there is a lot of commerce transacting in Ward One and he would like to do a lot of repairs around Rigid Tool so, the same thing with what happened to Bendix doesn't happen to Rigid Tool. They do one billion in sales each year and they just celebrated their 100th Anniversary. His list of streets consists of Sumner, (E. Broad to RR Tracks), Clark (Abbe to S. Logan), he asked Engineer Schneider if he would consider an OPWC application for Winckles St., which also borders Rigid Tool, the amount is \$101,000 which is the amount of money he would've had if the committee went with his formula. Forgoing that formula, he still thinks the good can be done because Winckles is bad. Additional streets he would like paved is Oxford (Park to Garford), Williams St. (Clark to Buckeye) and Blaine and splitting with Ward 3, Yale (E River to Sherman), split half way, one side is Ward One and one side is Ward Three, Ward One share is \$7,182 and Ward Three share \$7,182.

Mr. Doehne said he will take the entire part of Yale out of his ward's funds and he would also take some of Park Ave. He wants to do all of the rest of Park Ave and it would only make sense to it with his ward's funds.

Mr. Lipian thanked Mr. Doehne and he said he now has about \$13,000 left over and he likes the idea of working with Mr. Doehne and the idea of getting as much of Park and Yale done together. And he will contribute that \$13,000 to Mr. Doehne's ward to get more of Park Ave done going into ward one to complete Yale.

Mr. Lipian added Frank Ct. as an alternate.

Next, Chair Mitchell asked Ward 2 representative, Mrs. Davis to list her streets.

Mrs. Davis listed her streets; Bond (W River to Furnace), Erie (W River to Lorain), Florance Ct. Furnace (Bell to Rt 57), Persons Ct.

Mrs. Davis added Neuffer Ct. as an alternate.

Next, Chair Mitchell asked Ward 3 representative, Mr. Doehne to list his streets.

Mr. Doehne started with Yale (E River to Sherman), (*as discussed earlier*), Prospect (Michigan to Cambridge Apartments), Defiance (Chestnut to Nebraska), Defiance (where is changes from concrete to asphalt thru Carol Lane (a small section, where the pavement changes), Park (Vassar to Michigan) and he asked for the \$3,000 leftover to be used where needed.

Chair Mitchell called on Ward 4 rep, Mr. Oswald.

Mr. Oswald listed his streets; Alexander (Abbe to 160 Alexander), Commodore Cir (concrete), Hamilton Ave (Washington to Glenwood), Olivet. He asked if the small amount that is left, if they can possibly do a small amount in the half of the culd-e-sac on Alexander, anything that might be leftover.

Chair Mitchell called on Ward 5 representative, Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong listed his streets; 5th St. (West to Middle), Vic Janowicz Dr., 14th St. (West to Middle), Riverside (10th to 8th), Depot (Cedar to Fire Stat), Faxon (15th to 14th). *He added Linwood Ct (Fuller Rd to Nelson St as an alternate).*

Chair Mitchell called on Ward 7 representative, Mr. Cerra.

Mr. Cerra listed his streets; White Oak (Poplar to Sycamore), Brandtson (Ohio to Greely), Harwood (Cleveland to Hamilton), Marseilles (Sycamore to Rt 57). He has around \$2,000 left. *He added Pasadena (Cleveland to 545 Pasadena as an alternate).*

Chair Mitchell listed the streets in her ward. Academy Ct. (Brunswick to 133 Academy), Bell Ct (Clemens to 1250 Bell), Oakwood (Penfield to Clemens), Brunswick (Academy to Chadwick).

Engineer Schneider reminded everyone these prices are estimates and he asked if any ward representative would like to add alternates. He said they were able to do 2 or 3 of the alternates last year.

Chair Mitchell read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Armstrong and second by Mrs. Davis to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the 2026 Street Resurfacing Program, with emergency clause due to seasonal timelines.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Mitchell said that concluded this discussion and she asked for a motion for adjournment.

Mrs. Rothgery moved to adjourn the Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee Meeting and that motion was seconded by Mr. Armstrong and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

MOTION CARRIES

The next scheduled meeting of the Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 18th, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Rosado, Council Secretary/Administrative Assistant*