

**City of Palmer
Action Memorandum No. 15-079**

Subject: Recommending Street Improvement Priorities for 2016 Budget Priorities

Agenda of: August 11, 2015

Council Action: Adopted

Originator Information:

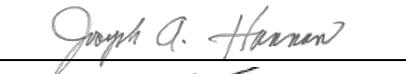
Originator: Tom Healy, Public Works Director

Date: July 29, 2015 **Requested agenda date:** August 11, 2015

Department Information:

Route to:	Department Director:	Signature:	Date:
	Community Development		
x	Finance		7/29/15
	Public Safety		
x	Public Works		7/29/15

Approved for presentation by:

	Signature:	Remarks:
City Manager		
City Attorney		
City Clerk		

Certification of Funds:

Total amount of funds listed in this legislation: \$ 0

This legislation (√):

Has no fiscal impact Creates a positive impact in the amount of: \$ _____
 Negative impact in the amount of: \$ _____

Funds are (√):

Budgeted Line item(s): _____
 Not budgeted Affected line item(s): _____

General fund assigned balance (after requested budget modification): \$ _____

Enterprise unrestricted net position (after requested budget modification): \$ _____

Director of Finance Signature: 

Summary statement:

In the work session of June 23, 2105, the City Council reviewed an updated cost summary of street improvements. The Council was also asked to identify criteria for future street improvements. Following is staff's interpretation of the Council's discussion on street improvement criteria and a staff's recommendation for 2016 street improvements that will be presented in the proposed 2016 budget.

Background

The City owns and maintains 33 miles of paved streets and 6 miles of unpaved streets. This is a significant change from about 20 years ago, when the City had about 14.6 miles of paved streets and 18 miles of unpaved streets.

A phased, multi-year project to replace old water mains and rehabilitate streets to paved standards contributed significantly to the increase in paved streets. Funding for those improvements included state and federal grants and loans, local improvement district funding and City funds. With the water main replacement project drawing to a close and with the steep reduction in State of Alaska capital project spending, the City faces a challenge to obtain capital funds to maintain present paved streets and upgrade gravel with paving, curb and gutter and streetlights.

Council Street Improvement Criteria

It is important to identify general criteria to help prioritize street improvements. At the June 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting, the City Council considered information on City streets and discussed factors that suggest certain street improvements should have higher priorities. These factors are:

- Deteriorated pavement on commercial district or other high traffic streets.
- Increased traffic on streets not constructed to high traffic standards.
- Pedestrian safety.
- Condition of gravel streets; for example, street subbase is suitable for paving.

2016 Budget Recommendations (in order of priority dependent upon budget available)

Project	Estimated Cost
Gravel streets reconstructed or in the reconstruction process to a standard ready to accept pavement, curb and gutter	
• E. Dolphin Ave. (N. Valley to Gulkana)	\$ 87,000
• E. and W. Auklet Ave. (Glenn Highway to Alaska Railroad)	\$ 554,000
• E. Caribou (Alaska to Bonanza)	\$ 115,000
Cobb Street between Evergreen Ave. and Blueberry Ave.	\$ 1.06 million
The City has completed 65% design documents for the rehabilitation of this street, including widening and new sidewalks on the section between Cottonwood Ave. to Blueberry Ave.	

Priorities may change and other factors may arise that affect what projects the City focuses on in the future. Approval of this action memorandum supports the general approach outlined above and gives a guideline for a street improvements program in the coming years.

Administration recommendation: Approve Action Memorandum No. 15-079.