



Date: July 7, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield - City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson - Deputy City Manager
From: Marvin G. Williams – Director of Public Works
Subject: Private Driveway Pipe Ordinance Revisions (Section 62-92)

Executive Summary

The existing Durham Code of Ordinances Section 62-92 allows a property owner or lessee to purchase pipe for driveways and walkways from the City and provides that City forces shall install such pipe at a charge prescribed by the City Council. The Public Works Department no longer receives requests for these services from property owners. This amendment would no longer offer private driveway pipe installation services to property owners.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that City Council approve an amendment to the Durham Code of Ordinances Section 62-92.

Background

In past years, a property owner or lessee had the option to purchase pipe for new driveways and walkways from the City and have City forces install the pipe. The requests for these services have dwindled in recent years. The Public Works Department has not received a request to install a private driveway pipe in many years. New private driveways pipes are now typically installed by a contractor working on behalf of a developer or property owner after obtaining the appropriate permit from the Public Works Department. The permit requires that a registered professional engineer provide a design for the pipe installation. This amendment would remove ambiguity between the Durham Code of Ordinances and the typical delivery method for private driveway pipes.

Issues and Analysis

The subject ordinance amendment would place responsibility for the installation of private driveway pipes solely with the developer or property owner. The amendment would remove potential ambiguity while being consistent with the current processes for driveway permitting and pipe installation. The amendment would also allow City forces to focus on maintenance of existing drainage systems within the right-of-way.

Alternatives

City Council could choose not to amend the current Durham Code of Ordinances. If so, property owners and lessees may have the impression that the City will install a private driveway pipe on their behalf.

Financial Impact

No significant financial impact is anticipated.

SDBE Summary

Not applicable.

Attachments

1. Durham Code of Ordinances Section 62-92.
2. Durham Code of Ordinances Section 62-92 proposed amendment.