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Ward 6 meeting

Documenter name: Michelle DeShon

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Summary

- Guests at the [Ward 6](#) meeting learned how they can get help from the city if they have a sidewalk that needs repairing or an issue with a tree in the devil strip, aka lawn strip, uprooting their sidewalk.
- More than 20 streets in Ward 6 will be resurfaced this year. See the full list below in "Notes." A city employee said the city raised the budget for street repairs from \$750,000 to \$1 million.
- Ever wonder why the tops of fire hydrants are different colors? It's more important than you think, so don't repaint hydrants on your lawn strip. Ward 6 Council Member Brad McKittrick said the red tops are low pressure while the white tops are higher pressure.

Follow-Up Questions

- With the planned street resurfacing, is the city confident it will get through the remaining 2024 and new 2025 streets by the end of the year?

- How does the city and Springfield Township, where the new businesses are coming, plan to account for the heavier traffic by semis and larger vehicles in those areas? How do we anticipate roads might be affected?

Notes:

McKittrick kicked off the meeting at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. About 15 people attended the meeting, and an Akron police officer was there to hear any concerns from attendees. No one had questions for the officer.

- For most of the meeting, Downtown Operations Manager Tish Jernigan talked about how residents can request help with a damaged sidewalk. She has worked for the city for more than 30 years in various departments like administration, construction, development and the mayor's office.
- The below has been summarized from a handout about the Petition Sidewalk Program.
 - The program assists homeowners with the cost of repairing or replacing substandard sidewalks. Upon notification of a sidewalk that needs repaired, the Engineering Bureau will send the property owner a petition with the preliminary maximum estimate of assessment for the sidewalk repairs based on repairing the entire portion of sidewalk and curb. Only streets with curbs are eligible. If the owner returns the petition, their property is added to the list of upcoming repairs. If the work is performed and some of the sidewalk can be saved, the final assessed costs will be less than the original estimate.
 - After improvements are made, the property owner can pay in cash or have the cost, plus interest, assessed over a 10 year period as part of their property taxes.
 - If the sidewalk has been damaged by tree roots from trees on the lawn strip, the city will replace the sidewalk up to 15 feet at no cost to the property owner. The city will only remove the tree if absolutely necessary.
 - Jernigan said tree cover and canopy are important to the health of the community, so the city will try to preserve trees when possible.
 - If a resident has a complaint about a damaged sidewalk, curb or a tree that needs to be removed, [call 311](#), use the 311 app, or contact Jernigan directly at 330-375-2496.
 - These repairs take several years to complete because there is a long list of repairs. In 2025, the city is making repairs from petitions made in 2023, said Jernigan, so if you have a concern but haven't notified the city, do so now.

- Attendees also heard what streets in the ward would be resurfaced. Here's a full listing of those roads:

Carryover 2024

- Horton Ave. from S. End to Cramer Ave.
- Bender Ave. from Tyrone St. to Cramer Ave.
- Tyrone St. from Gleason Ave. to Schrop Ave.
- Gleason Ave. from Tyrone St. to Market St. E.
- Mahowburn St. from High Grove Blvd. to Dennison Ave.
- Dennison Ave. from Mahowburn Ave. to Albrecht Ave.
- Wells Creek Run from Fulmer Ave. to E. End.
- Springfield Lake Blvd. from Massillon Rd. to George Wash. Blvd.
- Mahowburn St. from Dennison Ave. to Pauline Ave.

Base 2025

- Burnside St. from High Grove Blvd. to Pauline Ave.
- Ellet Ave. from Wirth Ave. to W. Corp Limit.
- Forest Park Blvd. from Stull Ave. to Morrison St.
- Glaser Pkwy. from Triplett Blvd. to Service Rd.
- Glaser Pkwy. from Service Rd. to Triplett Blvd.
- Kreiner Ave. from S. Corp. Limit to Forest Park Blvd.
- Morrison St. from Stevenson Ave. to Mogadore Rd.
- Municipal Ser. Center from Service Rd. to Glaser Pkwy.
- Pocantico Ave. from Ellet Ave. to Forest Park Blvd.
- Sieber Ave. from Albrecht Ave. to Shelburn Ave.
- Stevenson Ave. from Albrecht Ave. to Shelburn Ave.
- Wirth Ave. from Albrecht Ave. to Shelburn Ave.

Alternate 2025

- Ansel Ave. from Ardwell Ave. to Mogadore Rd.
- Ardwell Ave. from Woolf Ave. to E. End.
- Devonshire Dr. from Windemere Ave. to Mogadore Rd.
- Eastgate Ave. from Canton Rd. to Davenport Rd.

- McKittrick also provided a draft resolution of concrete roads that council will declare in need of improvements. The proposed repairs are on Shelburn Avenue, Berne Street, High Grove Boulevard, Baker Avenue, Income Drive, and Springfield Center Road.
- Due to an increased street repair budget of about \$250,000 additional funding annually, more improvements are underway, McKittrick said.

- One attendee asked why some fire hydrants have red tops and some are white. McKitrick said the red tops are low pressure while the white tops are higher pressure. This is very important for the fire department to know which hydrants to connect. He urged people to never repaint a hydrant on their property to make it more aesthetically pleasing.
- Attendees and McKitrick briefly discussed Hills and Dale Farm and Amazon are both opening facilities in or near Ward 6, bringing new jobs to the community.
- McKitrick said there will be an [Earth Day clean up](#) at Ellet Community Center on Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to noon, hosted by [Akron Parks and Recreation](#). No registration is required and clean up materials will be provided.
- The meeting ended at 7:02 p.m. The next Ward 6 meeting is May 15 at 6 p.m. at [Robert J. Ottermann Ellet Community Center](#), 2449 Wedgewood Dr. A representative from the juvenile court will share a presentation.