



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: 12-09-2024

Prepared By: Dennis Carr – City Engineer

Agenda Item: Shoulder Gravel Parking Discussion

Discussion: The City does not have many roads that do not have curb and gutter. In the areas where there is no curb and gutter, the City Code does not technically allow for gravel parking to be built along the roadway. The City Code is written as follows:

Sec. 56-299. - Off-street parking

(c) Off-street parking of vehicles shall not be allowed in the front yards in residential districts upon any unimproved surface. As used in this section, the term "unimproved surface," includes, but is not limited to, grass and dirt surfaces.

(d) Off-street parking of vehicles in residential districts shall be allowed under the following provisions when not in conflict with subsection (c) of this section:

- (1) Parking is prohibited in the front yard beyond the front line extended of the dwelling unit unless upon a driveway and provided that the vehicle at no time is parked within the public right-of-way or within the site triangle;

Along city streets where there is no curb and gutter, the ditch acts as the storm sewer for the roadway. Keeping the ditches graded and clear is the only way the drainage in these locations will work properly. Gravel parking along the roadway impacts the ditch system by reducing the volume that can flow through the ditch and increases the likelihood of erosion to silt in ditches or driveway culverts. The edge of the roadway along the parking locations also can become damaged if the parking spot is not well maintained or structurally stable.

During the Felkers stormwater priority project construction, a resident asked for a gravel parking spot to be constructed along the roadway. Staff informed the resident that it is not permitted by City Code. However, staff found that during the tornado rebuild efforts, multiple gravel parking areas were constructed without being permitted.

Quickly going through the City's aerial photography, staff found three existing gravel spots in the Felkers subdivision. There is gravel parking along the entire south edge of Holland from Market to Wood as well as a location on the north side of the street in this block as well.

With the code written to not allow parking on City right-of-way, staff felt it best to bring this item to the attention of the City Council before these parking spots are removed and the complaints begin to arrive.

If Council were to feel that parking along the street should be allowed, staff would recommend that the parking spot be required to be constructed of either hot-mix asphalt or concrete and not gravel. Untreated gravel is not allowed as a surface material in the City for driveways. The asphalt and/or concrete would help maintain the edge of pavement through this section as well.

Action Requested: Staff recommends discussion on parking spots along the shoulder of City Streets.