May 15, 2019

Honorable City Council:

RE: Petition No. 453 — Straight Gate International Church, request to vacate portions of Prairie Street and outright vacate portions of a public alley within the block bounded by Grand River Avenue, the I-96 Service Drive and Burnette Street.

Petition No. 453 — Giffels Webster on behalf of Straight Gate International Church, request to vacate and convert to easement Prairie Avenue, 50 feet wide, between Jeffries Freeway west bound service drive and Grand River Avenue, 100 feet wide. The request is also to vacate outright the east-west alley, 18 feet wide, in the block of Grand River Avenue, 100 feet wide, Jeffries Freeway west bound service drive, and Prairie Avenue, 50 feet wide.

The petition was referred to the City Engineering Division – DPW for investigation (utility review) and report. This is our report.

The request is being made to consolidate land parcels for a future development.

The request was approved by the Solid Waste Division – DPW, and Traffic Engineering Division – DPW, and City Engineering - DPW.

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) has no objection to the conversion to easement and outright vacation. The specific DWSD provisions for easements and vacations are included in the resolution.

DTE Energy reports having services in the area. The petitioner has made satisfactory arrangements with DTE Energy to remove three tangent poles, install one anchor guy and miscellaneous associated work. Provision to maintain access to DTE facilities in the easement area; and to pay for the removal work for the vacation is a part of the resolution.

The Detroit Fire Department (DFD) approves provided access is maintained to any buildings and fire department connections. A provision for DFD access is a part of the resolution.

All other involved City Departments, and privately owned utility companies have reported no objections to the outright vacation of the public right-of-way (the alley), and the conversion of the public right-of-way (Prairie Avenue) into a private easement for public utilities. Provisions protecting utility installations are part of the attached resolution.

I am recommending adoption of the attached resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Doherty, P.E., City Engineer

City Engineering Division – DPW

/JK

Cc: Ron Brundidge, Director, DPW

Mayor’s Office – City Council Liaison

BY COUNCIL MEMBER\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLVED**, that all of Prairie Avenue, 50 feet wide, between Jeffries Freeway west bound service drive and Grand River Avenue, 100 feet wide; Further described as land in the City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan being:

All that part of Prairie Avenue, 50 feet wide, lying South of Grand River Avenue, 100 feet wide, and North of the I-96 service drive, variable width, being more particularly described as: Commencing at the intersection of the South right-of-way line of Grand River Avenue, 100 feet wide, and the West right-of-way line of Burnette Avenue, 60 feet wide, also being the northeast corner of Lot 8 of “Hutton and Nall’s Grand River Park Subdivision in N.E. ¼ of Section 33 T-1-S, R-11-E, Greenfield Township, Wayne County, Michigan” Liber 30, Page 86 of Plats as recorded in Wayne County Records; thence along said South right-of-way line N62°16’35”W 320.14 feet to the Point of Beginning being the intersection of the South right-of-way line of said Grand River Avenue and the East right-of-way line of Prairie Avenue; thence along said East right-of-way line S02°55’59”E 116.52 feet to a point on the Northerly line of the I-96 service drive, variable width; thence along said northerly right-of-way line N36°23’23”W 90.69 feet to a point on the West right-of-way line of said Prairie Avenue; thence along said right-of-way line of Prairie Avenue, N02°55’59”W 70.49 feet to a point on the South line of said Grand River Avenue extended; thence along said extended South line S62°16’35”E 58.12 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Be and the same is hereby vacated as a public right-of-way and converted into a private easement for public utilities of the full width of the right-of-way, which easement shall be subject to the following covenants and agreements, uses, reservations and regulations, which shall be observed by the owners of the lots abutting on said right-of-way and by their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, forever to wit:

First, said owners hereby grant to and for the use of the public an easement or right-of-way over said vacated public street herein above described for the purposes of maintaining, installing, repairing, removing, or replacing public utilities such as water mains, sewers, gas lines or mains, telephone, electric light conduits or poles or things usually placed or installed in a public right-of-way in the City of Detroit, with the right to ingress and egress at any time to and over said easement for the purpose above set forth,

Second, said utility easement or right-of-way in and over said vacated street herein above described shall be forever accessible to the maintenance and inspection forces of the utility companies, or those specifically authorized by them, for the purpose of inspecting, installing, maintaining, repairing, removing, or replacing any sewer, conduit, water main, gas line or main, telephone or light pole or any utility facility placed or installed in the utility easement or right-of-way. The utility companies shall have the right to cross or use the driveways and yards of the adjoining properties for ingress and egress at any time to and over said utility easement with any necessary equipment to perform the above mentioned task, with the understanding that the utility companies shall use due care in such crossing or use, and that any property damaged by the utility companies, other than that specifically prohibited by this resolution, shall be restored to a satisfactory condition,

Third, said owners for their heirs and assigns further agree that no buildings or structures of any nature whatsoever including, but not limited to, concrete slabs or driveways, retaining or partition walls (except necessary line fences or gates), shall be built or placed upon said easement, nor change of surface grade made, without prior approval of the City Engineering Division – DPW,

Fourth, that if the owners of any lots abutting on said vacated street shall request the removal and/or relocation of any existing poles or other utilities in said easement; such owners shall pay all costs incidental to such removal and/or relocation, unless such charges are waived by the utility owners,

Fifth, that if any utility located in said property shall break or be damaged as a result of any action on the part of said owners or assigns (by way of illustration but not limitation) such as storage of excessive weights of materials or construction not in accordance with Section 3, mentioned above, then in such event said owners or assigns shall be liable for all costs incidental to the repair of such broken or damaged utility; and

Provided, that the petitioner maintain Fire Department vehicle access to all buildings, structures, fire hydrants, and fire department connections, and further

Provided, that the property owners maintain for DTE Energy, full access to their facilities at all times (i.e. gated access with DTE locks at all ends of the easement) and that free and easy access to the DTE facilities is reserved for DTE equipment, including the use of backhoes, bull dozers, cranes or pipe trucks, and other heavy construction equipment, as necessary for the alteration or repair of DTE facilities, and further

Provided, that an easement, the full width of the existing right-of-way, is reserved for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for the purpose of installing, maintaining, repairing, removing, or replacing any sewers, water mains, fire hydrants and appurtenances, with the right of ingress and egress at any time to, and over said easement for the purpose above set forth; and be it further

Provided, that free and easy access to the sewers, water mains, fire hydrants and appurtenances within the easement is required for Detroit Water and Sewerage Department equipment, including the use of backhoes, bull dozers, cranes or pipe trucks, and other heavy construction equipment, as necessary for the alteration or repair of the sewer or water main facilities; and be it further

Provided, that the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department retains the right to install suitable permanent main location guide post over its water mains at reasonable intervals and at points deflection; and be it further

Provided, that said owners of the adjoining property, for themselves, their heirs and assigns, agree that no building or structure of any nature whatsoever, including porches, patios, balconies, etc., shall be built upon or over said easement, or that no grade changes or storage of materials shall be made within said easement without prior written approval and agreement with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department; and be it further

Provided, that if any time in the future, the owners of any lots abutting on said vacated street shall request the removal and/or relocation of the aforementioned utilities in said easement, such owners shall pay all costs incident to such removal and/or relocation. It is further provided that if sewers, water mains, and/or appurtenances in said easement shall break or be damaged as a result of any action on the part of the owner, or assigns, then in such event, the owner or assigns shall be liable for all costs incident to the repair of such broken or damaged sewers and water mains, and shall also be liable for all claims for damages resulting from his action; and be it further

Provided, that if it becomes necessary to remove the paved street returns at the entrances (into Grand River Avenue, and/or Jeffries Freeway service drive) such removal and construction of new curb and sidewalk shall be done under city permit and inspection according to City Engineering Division – DPW specifications with all costs borne by the abutting owner(s), their heir or assigns; and be it also

**RESOLVED,** that the east-west alley, 18 feet wide, in the block of Grand River Avenue, 100 feet wide, Jeffries Freeway west bound service drive, and Prairie Avenue, 50 feet wide; being land in the City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan described as:

All that part of an east-west alley, 18 feet wide as recorded and 20 feet wide as measured, and a part of a north-south alley, 9 feet wide, within “Gilbert Subdivision, Greenfield Township, Wayne County, Michigan” as recorded in Liber 31, Page 10 of Plats, Wayne County Records, and a portion of an alley, 9 feet wide, within “Hutton and Nall’s Grand River Park Subdivision in N.E. ¼ Section 33 T-1-S, R-11-E, Greenfield Township, Wayne County, Michigan” Liber 30, Page 86 of Plats, as recorded in Wayne County Records, being within the Block bounded by Prairie Avenue, 50 feet wide, Grand River Avenue, 100 feet wide, Burnette Avenue, 60 feet wide, and the I-96 service drive, variable width, being more particularly described as: Commencing at the intersection of the South right-of-way line of Grand River Avenue, 100 feet wide, and the West right-of-way line of Burnette Avenue, 60 feet wide, also being the northeast corner of Lot 8 of said “Hutton and Nall’s Grand River Park Subdivision”; thence continuing along said South right-of-way line N62°16’35”W 320.14 feet to a point in the East right-of-way line of Prairie Avenue, 50 feet wide; thence along said East right-of-way line S02°55’59”E 116.52 feet to the Point of Beginning also being the intersection of the North right-of-way line of I-96 service drive, variable width, and the North line of a public alley, 20 feet wide as measured; thence along said North line S76°25’20”E 128.36 feet; thence S02°55’59”E 36.20 feet; thence S87°04’01”W 18.00 feet; thence N02°55’59”W 20.67 feet to a point on the South line of said public alley; thence along said South line N76°25’20”W 90.93 feet to the intersection of said South line of public alley and the North right-of-way line of I-96 service drive; thence N37°17’51”W 31.70 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Be and the same is hereby vacated (outright) as public right-of-way to become part and parcel of the abutting property, subject to the following provisions:

Provided, that petitioner/property owner make satisfactory arrangements with any and all utility companies for cost and arrangements for the removing and/or relocating of the utility companies and city departments services or granting of private easements for specific utility companies, if necessary, and further

Provided, that the petitioner make the necessary arrangements with DTE Energy for the removal of three tangent poles, and for the installation of one anchor guy and miscellaneous associated work with the cost borne by the petitioner, and further

Provided, that the petitioner shall design and construct proposed sewers and to make the connections to the existing public sewers as required by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) prior to construction of the proposed sewers, and further

Provided, that the plans for the sewers shall be prepared by a registered engineer; and further

Provided, that DWSD be and is hereby authorized to review the drawings for the proposed sewers and to issue permits for the construction of the sewers; and further

Provided, that the entire work is to be performed in accordance with plans and specifications approved by DWSD and constructed under the inspection and approval of DWSD; and further

Provided, that the entire cost of the proposed sewers construction, including inspection, survey and engineering shall be borne by the petitioner; and further

Provided, that the petitioner shall deposit with DWSD, in advance of engineering, inspection and survey, such amounts as the department deems necessary to cover the costs of these services; and further

Provided, that the petitioner shall grant to the City a satisfactory easement for the sewers, and further

Provided, that the Board of Water Commissioners shall accept and execute the easement grant on behalf of the City, and further

Provided, that the petitioner shall provide a one (1) year warranty for the proposed sewers, and further

Provided, that upon satisfactory completion, the sewers shall become City property and become part of the City system. And any existing sewers that were abandoned shall belong to the petitioner and will no longer be the responsibility of the City; and further

Provided, that any construction in the public rights-of-way such as curbs and sidewalks shall be done under city permit and inspection according to City Engineering Division – DPW specifications with all costs borne by the abutting owner(s), their heir or assigns; Also

Whereas, The subject alley being vacated was partially opened by land being deeded to the City of Detroit for alley purposes on May 25, 1948 in the Journal of Common Council pages 1400-1401, and

Whereas, The subject alley being vacated was partially opened by land being deeded to the City of Detroit for alley purposes on July 14, 1953 in the Journal of Common Council pages 1640-1641, and

Whereas, the City of Detroit is the owner in fee for land parcels deeded for alley purposes; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Planning and Development Director is hereby authorized to issue a quit-claim deed to transfer the following described parcels of land for fair market value and/or other valuable consideration:

All that part of Lots 1 and 2 of “Hutton and Nall’s Grand River Park Subdivision in N. E. ¼ of Section 33 T.1S.,R.11E. City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan” as recorded in Liber 30 of Plats, Page 86, Wayne County Records described as follows: Beginning at a point in the southwest corner of Lot 2, said point also being in the intersection of the north line of 18 foot east and west public alley, south of Grand River Avenue, with the east line of 9-foot north and south public alley east of Prairie Avenue; thence along the west line of Lots 1 and 2 N1°26’W 34.87 feet to a point; thence along a line S75°34’04”E 9.36 feet to a point; thence along a line S1°26’E 37.60 feet to a point in the south line of Lot 2; thence along the said south line of Lot 2 N61°W 10.44 feet to the place of Beginning. Together with:

All that part of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of “Gilbert Subdivision of part of N.E. ¼ of Section 33 T.1S.,R.11E. Greenfield Township, Wayne County, Michigan” as recorded in Liber31 of Plats, Page 10, Wayne County Records, described as follows: Beginning at a point in the intersection of the east line of Prairie Avenue, 50 feet wide, as now established with the south line of Lot 5 of last mentioned subdivision; thence along the south line of Lots 5, 4, 3, and 2 S61°E 53.10 feet to a point in Lot 2 thence continuing along the south line of Lots 2 and 1 N88°28’E 48.55 feet to a point in Lot 1; thence along a line N75°34’04”W 98.07 feet to the place of Beginning. Together with:

A triangle parcel of land in the northeast corner of Lot 223 of “Gilbert Subdivision of part of the N. E. ¼ of Section 33 T.1S.,R.11E.” as recorded in Liber 31 Page 10 of Plats, Wayne County Records, being 5.84 feet on the east line of Lot 223 and 20.97 feet on the north line of Lot 223.

Provided, That the City Clerk shall within 30 days record a certified copy of this resolution with the Wayne County Register of Deeds.