

From: [Wendy Neurer](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul](#), [Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [Thomas Romens](#); [Mat Broph](#); [Tom Adamson](#); [Kurt Klussendorf](#); [Stephen Geyen](#); [Ralph Moore](#); [Bill McMahon](#); [Chandler Taylor](#); [Mary Ann Berglund](#); [Gregg Angell](#); [Daniel Becker](#); [Tim Moorhead](#)
Subject: Resolution 24-720 Date 6/19 Objection to adopting City Special Assessment policy
Date: Friday, June 21, 2024 7:33:59 PM

City Council,

We, several neighbors on South Woodlawn Ave, have strong objections for an impending upcoming estimated assessment of approximately \$2,000 for our small block that had a standard mill and overlay. Street maintenance schedule for decades every 7 to 10 years has been a mill and overlay. This has been part of the Public Works standard for maintaining our streets. Furthermore, several inches of asphalt was applied because of the depth of the street was grated. Not so this time. **To say, this is a personal property enhancement is not factual. This is a scheduled street maintenance.** Within a few years with a normal winter, the streets will crumble, potholes will appear and there will be a deterioration of the streets.

I find myself again being outraged how the city is double charging property tax owners for basic city services. Mayor Melvin Carter just raised our property taxes 15% for the sole purpose of street maintenance and another 1% sales tax for streets yet you are imposing an assessment on each of our homes for approximately \$2,000 in addition to what we are already paying in property taxes which includes street maintenance. How many times are we charged for our streets to be maintained to safely drive on them? It is not a lack of city money needed to cover basic city services rather a misguided use of budget dollars.

This is a step too far. Street maintenance is part of our property taxes. I see over the years that city politicians have lost focus on the core mission of the city: safe streets and sidewalks, public safety, preservation of the environment, trees, historic buildings and institutions and neighborhoods, library services and regional parks and recreation services. Where exactly are you spending OUR money? Top priority should be basic, essential city services, not social services that the county is responsible for.

In 2023, the poor decision not to immediately plow the side streets at the beginning of the snow storm, it iced up our street so bad that Public Works needed to come back to Woodlawn with graters which chewed up sections of the block. So it was Public Works who did the damage and now you are charging us for their incompetence? Or does this simply follow a prescheduled for street maintenance?

Use the money that Public Works didn't need to put out this current year for snow plowing, snow emergency, spring street cleaning for sand and salt and apply that into the mill and overlay projects. We still have the question why are we being overcharged \$2,000 for our small block to have had a standard basic level street maintenance? Why are we being charged/assessed at all?

This creates an undue hardship and barriers when the City keeps taxing and

assessing for basic city services that by all account should be part of regular property taxes which inflates every year. What was the additional 15% property tax increase for? And the additional 1% sales tax that we all understood both of these taxes to be used for streets being maintained ?

For those of us retired on fixed incomes, this is at a tipping point! Please listen to what the people that you represent are trying to tell you. Thank you...

With strong objections,

Wendy Neurer

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