

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Petition forms are available in the Council Clerk's Office. It requires the signature of a majority of the property owners that abut the requested vacation. A plat of the area shall accompany the application indicating the street or alley to be vacated. This plat can be obtained from the City Engineer's Office.

In addition to the petition for an alley vacation being signed by the abutting property owners, which is notice, if said proposed alley vacation is less than the full alley running from street to street, either north and south or east and west as the case may be, then the Clerk will also send notices to the abutting property owners on that portion of the alley extended but not in the request for vacation. For example, if an alley runs from north to south from street A to street B, intersected by an east-west alley, and the request is to vacate the alley running from street A to the intersecting east-west alley, then the abutting property owners on the remaining portion of that north-south alley between street A and street B shall also receive notice of the petition to vacate from the Council Clerk. (Rules of Procedure, as amended, of Findlay City Council).

Ideally, the petition must be signed by all abutting property owners. If not, a Public Notice of Consideration to Vacate has to be advertised in the Courier for six consecutive weeks. The cost of the advertising shall be paid by the petitioner. Anyone wishing to address Council concerning the petition may do so as a result of the publication. This can occur at any of the three readings which Council must give an Ordinance that vacates right-of-way.

FEE

At the time of submitting the request to the Council Clerk, a **\$75.00 non-refundable fee** shall accompany the petition. This is to off-set some of the City's expenses. **Upon adoption of legislation, applicable advertising and filing fees will be invoiced to the petitioner.**

ASSESSMENTS

By law, if there were assessments to the abutting properties for improvements to the street or utilities, the petitioners are to pay the assessment fee for the property being vacated. These assessments, if any, are recorded in the City Engineer's Office. They are requested to be researched for the property upon legislation request. The petitioners will be invoiced for the total expense, and it must be paid before Council will vacate the street or alley.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION

Planning Commission action on vacation petitions will be in the form of a recommendation to City Council. Council may then either concur with the Commission's recommendation or override it. Concurring action may be accomplished with a simple majority vote, while overriding action requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Council. Notice of the Planning Commission Meeting will be sent from the Engineer's Office to the filer of the petition advising him/her when the request shall be heard.

COMMITTEE ACTION

This Committee's action will be in the form of a recommendation to City Council. Council may then either concur with the Committee's recommendation or override it. Action is a simple majority vote to concur or override the Committee report. Notice of the Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting will be sent by the Council Clerk to the petitioners advising them when the request shall be heard.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Once the petition is placed on Council's agenda, it will be referred to the City Planning Commission and the Committee with all documentation submitted. Both the City Planning

Commission and the Planning & Zoning Committee shall review the request. Upon their findings, Council will request legislation and give it three (3) separate readings if the vacation is to proceed.

In order to vacate a public right-of-way, City Council must adopt an ordinance doing so. Normally, legislation is prepared when the Planning & Zoning Committee recommends that an action be taken. However, appropriate legislation can be drawn at the request of any Council member, whether or not the vacation is supported by the Committee. Ordinances require three readings prior to adoption, and this normally occurs over the course of three consecutive meetings of Council.

A majority affirmative vote of at least five (5) members is necessary to enact a vacation ordinance. If Council disagrees with the Planning Commission's recommendation, it will take six (6) affirmative votes of members of Council to enact a vacation ordinance. The ordinance is not effective until at least 30 days after signing by the Mayor.

Revised 12-05

Name of Contact Person _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone No. (Home) _____ **(Business)** _____

(date)

(Signature of Contact Person)

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