

Published November 17, 2009 12:30 pm - A section of Barachel Lane near the Lincoln Street intersection will be temporarily closed down beginning yesterday as the Lincoln Street Reconstruction Project continues.

City Encouraging Caution On Lincoln Street Barachel Closes As Project Picks Up Pace

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A section of Barachel Lane near the Lincoln Street intersection will be temporarily closed down beginning yesterday as the Lincoln Street Reconstruction Project continues.

On Monday, crews from RW Armstrong and Keramida were at the site to begin work on the eventual demolition of the Giddings Cleaners property that will force the nearby roadway to be closed due to the inevitable dump truck traffic required to remove the contaminated soil that sits beneath the building. The building was scheduled to be torn down before the road construction portion of the project hit the area. Originally, much of the contaminated soil that is underneath the former cleaning operation was to be removed, forcing the closure of Barachel Lane on Monday, Oct. 5. Lingering asbestos in the building and the polluted soil had created further need for the building to come down. In addition to the problems, as the result of vandalism, a large chunk of the building was trashed by the back-hoe that was sitting on the property preparing to bring the building down, further delaying the demolition.

Currently, the project is scheduled to continue until Dec. 18. The closed portion of the road will extend from the intersection with Lincoln Street east to the western property line of 404 E. Barachel Lane. The construction and subsequent closure will also include the addition of a right turn lane for drivers on Barachel Lane heading north from Lincoln Street.

On Monday, the Greensburg Board of Works held a special meeting at City Hall to discuss the partial closure. Keramida project manager Steve Cobb was on hand to request the road closure, which had already been approved at the board's September meeting. However, that approval was written for a different project time frame. Cobb suggested that the delay was the result of scheduling conflicts and access problems that had since been resolved. Board member Herb Hunter pointed out that the closure had already been approved by the appropriate bodies, and that the board was simply voting on a date change. The motion passed unanimously, minus board members Linda Oldham and Dr. Rodney King, who were absent.

City engineer Gary Murray briefed the board about the Lincoln Street Project, and explained that a few curve balls have been thrown out. Filled in ditches near Hickory Creek and the strange discovery of old storm sewers were just a few of the surprises construction crews have found beneath Lincoln Street.

“They’re hitting things nobody knew were underground everyday,” Murray said.

Now that the project has started, both Murray and Street Commissioner Mark Klosterkemper are encouraging drivers on Lincoln Street to be cautious. Though access to every business on Lincoln Street will remain intact, restricted lanes and narrower paths will soon be found on the popular roadway.

“Everybody just needs to take it easy and have some patience,” Klosterkemper said.

Before the Board of Works adjourned, Murray presented the members with right-of-way service contracts for the Vandalia Road Project, which had already been voted on but required signatures. The contracts approved previously were the “draft” version, Murray explained. He also updated the board about the dirt pile near Vandalia Road that plagued the board members at last month’s meeting. Ultimately, the board unanimously approved a motion that stated that if they could not get property owners to move the dirt or get the property owners to let the city remove it, another survey would be required at a cost. The city could remove the dirt if they are given the go-ahead by property owners. According to Murray, the city had received the green light from all but two property owners, and that the county government would be willing to accept the soil. Once the city talks with the two remaining property owners, Murray estimated that the savings to the city would be about \$20,000 to remove the soil.

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Photos



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A portion of Barachel Lane was closed down temporarily on Monday, extending from the intersection of Barachel Lane with Lincoln Street east to the western property of 404 E. Barachel Lane. The project is scheduled to continue until Dec. 18, and is part of the overall Lincoln Street Reconstruction Project. Joe Hornaday / Greensburg Daily News