

sidewalk width limitations in the front of the building, the owners believe converting a portion of the alley for both pedestrian and sidewalk café purposes would be beneficial. The proposed improvements include limiting vehicular traffic to special events or emergency situations and requiring the remaining section of Arey Street toward Dale Street to be two-way traffic for ingress/egress serving Lafayette Place businesses and residents.

City staff reviewed the proposal and made the following recommendations:

- The Planning and Development Department recommended that emergency vehicular flow through the alley be maintained. Additionally, adequate pedestrian facilities should be maintained.
- The Fire and Rescue Department will require access to any Fire Department Connection (FDC) associated with the development of 213 South Lafayette Street. A fire lane should be maintained in the alley. In addition, emergency vehicular flow should be maintained in the alley.
- The Police Department recommended vehicular flow for emergencies and special events is maintained.

Mr. Scharer stated given this request could potentially draw public scrutiny and would be a significant change to a public street, the resolution authorizes Mr. Howell to proceed with the process. Adjoining property owners, businesses, and residents will be notified of the proposed change and given the opportunity to comment on the specific design proposal once completed. After public review, the project may proceed with final design approval being determined by City Council.

Mr. Howell reiterated the alley will not be closed and added a balanced approach should be taken regarding this repurposing request and future requests. He mentioned repurposing this alley will not affect trash collection or any utility functions. Mr. Howell stated any proposed work can be accomplished within existing budgeted funds along with some additional funding secured by the City through the ElectriCities' Smart Communities Grant Program.

Upon questioning, Chief Hunt stated staff reviewed the proposal and pointed out Shelby Fire & Rescue Department personnel and equipment will require access to the closest intersection in case of an emergency situation. He explained during fire-fighting operations the area in question would be referred to as a collapse zone due to the proximity of the buildings. Fire apparatus is then placed outside of the collapse zone.