

Council Meeting September 3, 2019
Regarding Proposed Piping of the Ashland Canal

Good evening, Mayor, and Council Members,

So many Ashland residents, not just those who live along the canal whose properties they have spent years enjoying and maintaining and improving, but Ashland residents I meet at the CoOp, at Shop 'n Kart, at Market of Choice, at SOU, at Paddington's, at the Varsity Theater, have asked me, "Why would the city want to rip up people's property, rip out so many trees, and spend so much money when there's a perfectly good alternative at a much less cost that would accomplish the city's objectives?"

I have been met by anger, and disbelief, and a sense of helplessness, followed by, "Who's going to pay for this? Our utilities are already high and rising. Why impose this additional burden on us?"

And then the question: "What is the City Council we elected going to do about it?"

They're all good questions. I don't believe that city staff has considered the full impact of the piping project on residents' property and their lives. I am here on my own behalf and on behalf of my fellow Ashlanders who have enjoyed and loved living in Ashland for many years and whose properties and lives are facing an unnecessary destruction, and devaluation, and whose lives are about to be turned upside down if you vote for piping of the canal.

I ask you, respectfully, to please vote NO on the piping of the canal. Thank you for listening and for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Perina".

Helen Perina
Ashland