

## **Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Tuesday, September 6, 2011.**

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Simmons at about 7:25 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Bormann, Sanders, Angell, Orsini, and Wilkins. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Mike Forsee, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Ken Cooley, and James Smith.

### Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. Behrns complimented the Electric crew for the results of their work at replacing the transformers, wire, and services in the easement behind several businesses on the east side of Allen Street. What was formerly a "rat's nest" is now clean, straight, and much easier to maintain. Mustain commented on an outage caused by a blown fuse.

Behrns mentioned that nuclear power plant siting legislation was not on the Governor's call for the special session of the Legislation, so there was no current need for resolutions of support.

### Streets and Sanitation

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Departments.

Behrns has found a firm that might be interested in removing one of the old railcar oil tanks from the City Shop property. This seems to be at no cost for the City, which would be perhaps \$18,000 less than previously expected. Behrns will continue to follow up on this and be sure that such work would be according to federal and state regulations.

Hoffman has a proposal for replacing one or two of the two shop heaters. These are original with the buildings and about 27 years old. Behrns has only budgeted for one this year and one next year. This proposal is above the budget amount, but there would be a savings if both heaters are done simultaneously. Committee discussed the topic and preliminarily decided that only one would be replaced. This item will be on the regular Board agenda, and Behrns was asked to calculate the payback time if the City were to buy the more efficient unit rather than the less expensive.

Behrns said he had received contracts with Boone County for sharing of moneys from the County's transportation sales tax. The first year's payment would be for about \$106,000, as previously described by Commissioner Robb. An ordinance to authorize the contract will be on next Board agenda.

Hoffman said that trash amounts had been heavy recently. He noted that one of the trash crew had been out for an extended period and would likely be out for at least another month. In the interim, we are filling in the morning with the part-time employee who worked last winter. When necessary, the afternoon coverage is coming from a revolving roster of street, water, and electric equipment operators. The employee is being covered by the FMLA, and the City is actually saving money most weeks because of wage rate differences.

Hoffman reported that he will be making a second pour of about 120 feet length in the Miles Street ditch. This will get the work around the critical corner and headed south. Before a third pour is feasible, a tree must be taken down and a power pole moved. The goal is to have the ditch complete to the south right-of-way line of Sims Street before rainy weather returns.

APAC has told Hoffman that they may not be working on overlays for more than two weeks. Their schedule is delayed because the fabric underliner for Hickman Street has been on back-order.

Hoffman had called the railroad about when they may complete restoration of the Jefferson Street crossing, but

he has not gotten a response. He will try a different contact.

#### Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department. Forsee said that the main on Miles Street had cracked during work on the ditch project, because of vibration and not because the line was hit.

Behrns presented an analysis and recommendation concerning future work on the sewer collection and treatment system. It is a response to the study and report from Shafer, Kline & Warren. It incorporates a possibility that one of the irrigating farmers, Bob Benoit, might upgrade one of the irrigation pump motors from 45 hp to 75 hp, particular if he decides to add a second pond. Forsee was not sure that piping could accommodate this. The City will need an engineering opinion to make an assessment. Behrns said that if the time comes he will seek a quote from Shafer, Kline & Warren for the work.

Behrns told Mayor Grenke that he had tentatively identified a site for a third water tower. The present owner is elderly and not interested in selling, but her heirs may be. The site will be mentioned in the updated Comprehensive Plan and could also be the location for a third substation in the far future, if needed.

Forsee presented a proposal from Hach Co. for a maintenance agreement to take care of the six remote sensors, recorders, and testing equipment for the water plant. So far, this equipment keeps the City from having to have regular staffing on evenings and weekends. The item will be on the next Board agenda for formal action.

The various departments have advertized for sale by bid of scrap metal. The bids will be presented at the regular Board meeting. Most of the metal is from replaced power lines and used pipes. Forsee has not included an old pump in the scrap metal list. He has received a bid of \$750 from Danny Flynn for the pump, which is more than we could get for metal by weight. Forsee has not found an after-market of such pumps. This is an odd size and would need serious repair work. Committee thought this was an excellent deal. Angell moved to sell the old (and unusable) pump to Flynn for \$750.00. Orsini seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the sale.

Forsee said the insert valves were installed and he should be able to proceed with the replacement of the four-way tee and valve assembly on Wednesday night, when no businesses should be disrupted.

#### As May Arise

Behrns reported that PSC, MPUA, and the MML had all notified the City that the approved rate increases for Ameren Missouri above 7%. Recent state law would require the City to roll back its 5% gross receipts tax or take positive action to retain it. Staff is recommending that the City stay at 5%. This is easy to describe and calculate. It would not subject the City to permanent ratchets of the rate if (as has happened in the past) there are PSC mandated rate decreases for Ameren Missouri. City Attorney Beck has drafted language for a proposed ordinance, which would have to be passed at the regular Board meeting and forwarded to PSC. If adopted, the City would not have to make any further changes under present statutes.

Behrns said that he had been contacted by representatives of Bluebird Network. They presented a route for burying fibre optic cable through town. The plans show the cable along Highway 124 to Singleton Street, then east to Hickman Street, north to Singleton Street, east to Allen Street, north Highway 22, and then along the south side of Highway 22 east toward Mexico. The work is expected to happen in late fall. The water crew will have to carefully monitor the installation because there are many water mains and sewer taps along the route.

The Committee adjourned at about 8:45 p.m.

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