

## **Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, January 9, 2012.**

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Simmons at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Wilkins, Bormann, Orsini, and Sanders. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, Police Sergeant Robert Bias, Kenny Coolley, Darryl Spauldin, Troy Balthazor, Dawn Zeterberg, Ron Beard, Paul Couture, A. J. Bockelman, Adam Stites and his wife, James Smith and others.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Comments from Citizens

Coolley asked what the City had planned in the coming year for improvements to a portion of Jefferson Street and Emerald Drive and also why the City retained the small paving machine. Behrns replied that the upcoming budget should contain funding for design engineering for rebuilding Jefferson between the railroad tracks and Switzler from Jefferson Street to Howard Burton Drive. Both should then be scheduled for construction work in Summer of 2013. He said he would also look into hiring some firm to do crack sealing in selected areas. As for the paver, the City has retained it as a hedge against the time that the cost spread between asphalt by the truck load and the cost for asphalt laid in-place became significant again. The City no longer has personnel with paving experience, and it may well be time to make the machine surplus.

Balthazor and Zeterberg, both residents of Columbia and members of the Mid-Missouri Advocacy Coalition, addressed the Committee. Balthazor said that they came on behalf of John Hinton, who was unable to attend. Balthazor inquired about sidewalk work adjacent to streets which received overlays this last year. Hoffman said that he had upgraded many of the sidewalk ramps at those locations and would be completing the rest as weather and staffing permits this year. Behrns noted that Kelly Homes was preparing to upgrade the public restroom in the front foyer of City Hall and that Hoffman would also be upgrading the sidewalk "ramp" area on the north side of the building. Balthazor presented committee members with a document for their review. It included several questions which the Coalition would like answered before March 15.

Alderman Angell arrived.

### Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department.

Committee asked about the progress on replacing wheel motors on the irrigation pivots. Behrns said that the second phase is complete. The City retained most of the old motors and can use them as needed for replacing any of the remaining motors at Sims' or the other farms as they might fail. Staff does not believe there is any reason to perform any more wholesale replacements at this time.

### Streets and Sanitation

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

Hoffman was asked about the cost of repair/replacing signs damaged by automobiles. Hoffman said that replacement of a sign can cost \$100-150. If the person who damaged the sign can be identified, he or she will be sent a bill for the replacement expense. However, many times the accident will not be reported and there is no one to bill.

Hoffman said his department is back at work on removing the floors that remain at 105 N. Allen, as weather permits. Staff will be asking Gary Dorr about having the brick layers back to repair the second floor edges at the front of the building and some voids left by removing joists.

### Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. Mustain said that his department had upgraded all of the 4-foot ceiling lights and ballasts at the Fire Station. The 8-foot lights in the bays are still to come.

Requests for proposals had been mailed to more than a dozen potential vendors for tree trimming services for line clearance and for removal of some dying street trees. Four vendors submitted bids. After clarifying some items with three of the bidders, Mustain was able to prepare a spread sheet of analysis, based on a typical three-person crew. Two vendors appeared to be close in most respects, but Poor Boy Tree Services had an extra per diem charge of \$35/per man/per day to cover lodging costs. Therefore, staff recommends that Asplundh be awarded the work. Asplundh has more than twenty crews working in the Boone County area and does work for Boone Electric, Ameren, and the City of Columbia. The contract is of the time and materials variety and not for a specified amount. That will be set in the 2012-13 budget. Behrns said that this item had never exceeded \$25,000 in past years. The contract will be on the regular Board agenda for approval by ordinance.

Mustain mentioned two pieces of concrete work he would like to do in the coming year. The new budget will propose replacing crumbling asphalt at the entrance to the electric shop with concrete. The work could be done in stages over several years, with the first portion in 2012. Mustain would also construct four concrete pole supports for storing stock wooden power poles. This would be at the site of the Wilson Street Substation. Only about a yard of concrete will be needed for each support, and Behrns said the work was cheap enough to start before the end of the year, without any need for Board action.

Behrns and City Clerk Lockett will attend a training session to familiarize themselves with the billing for wholesale electricity under the new contract. From now on, the City will be pay portions of the costs to Ameren Energy Marketing (power), Ameren Services and MISO (transmission and ancillary services), the Cities of Kahoka and Marceline (reimbursing for their contributions of backup capacity), and MPUA for the net costs of the City's allocation of power from the Prairie State plant—which are being sold back into the market for the next three years. Cumulatively, these will all total less that the City was paying under the previous contract.

### Other

Due to a vacation week and the timing of completing the December operating statement, Behrns did not have an opportunity to make a full update of preliminary budget numbers. However, he does believe that a water rate increase will not be necessary. He believes that next month he may recommend an increase in sewer rates amounting to 44 cents to the monthly base charge and 4 cents per thousand gallons of usages. For the "typical" customers using 5,000 gallons per month, this amounts to a 64 cent per month increase.

### As May Arise

Mayor Grenke reminded aldermen about the regional MML meeting being held Wednesday night in Marshall.

The Committee adjourned at about 7:30 p.m.