

## **Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, March 5, 2012.**

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Simmons at 7:00 p.m. Present were Aldermen Bormann, Orsini, Sanders, Wilkins, and Angell. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, Mike Forsee, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Don Bagley, Cletus Jones, Adam Sites, Landon Magley, Kenny Cooley, and James Smith. Mayor Grenke listened by phone, but did not vote on any matters.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Comments from Citizens

Cooley brought up the topic of street maintenance. He suggested that City needed to find more money for regular residential streets and focus there rather than on large scale projects such as replacing Switzler Street. There should also be more effort devoted to patching and crack sealing. Behrns described work proposed for this year and next. This year will be the end of debt service on Lakeview improvements. Next year Switzler and Jefferson Street desperately need work to facilitate local commerce. The following two years should allow for overlays on most remaining streets suffering rough conditions.

Bagley asked about computer priority lists and graveled streets. Behrns said that the city implemented a computer inventory program nearly two years ago. All City streets are on it, with size and conditions noted. It is used as an aid in developing the annual maintenance priority list. Only a few gravel streets—Ivy, Campbell, and a half block of Howard Burton Drive—are still gravel. All are old streets platted before subdivision regulations required paving by developers. An old Policy Resolution says that the City will get to them eventually, but maintenance is a higher need.

### Streets and Sanitation

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

Behrns recommended that he, the mayor, Bormann, and Hoffman, be on an ad hoc committee to review the engineering RFPs for the Switzler and Jefferson Streets replacement projects

Hoffman distributed a tabulation of quotes to furnish roll-off dumpsters for cleanup week. Staff's recommended choice was Daynes by a very small margin. Bormann moved and Orsini seconded a motion that the City use Daynes to supply dumpsters for Cleanup week. On roll-call voted, all members present vote in favor and the motion passed.

Preparatory work has started on the next stretch of the Miles Street Ditch project--mostly burying wires and locating water and gas mains.

### Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department. They had no immediate questions.

Forsee was asked if there had been any water pressure problems around Walnut Street. Forsee said "not yet", but there may be fluctuations resulting from replacing a 3/4 inch "main" with regular pipe. He will need one insert valve in the system before the replacement to avoid customer cutoffs. The

department is investigating a high-pressure complaint in another area of town. A single house has experienced “surges” which are probably a water heater issue.

#### Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. Mustain told Sanders that the new skid loader has about 35 hours on it, even in the winter months. Sanders was told that the price paid for the machine was \$46,934 (under the state open contract), not the “list price” of more than \$60,000. Netting out the proceeds from sale of the old machine drops the cost further.

Mustain show Purchase Power Poles. Two bids were received, the best being from Thomasson Co. at \$261.80 per pole (with a projected truck load of 43 poles). Orsini moved to purchase the poles from Thomasson Co. per its bid. Bormann second the motion. On roll call vote, all members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Sanders and others asked about catastrophic pole failure. Mustain explained that his crew make regular inspections and had completed a full inventory of pole conditions in 2009. Poles tend to rot below ground level and can be harder to detect. The Electric Department has been working on replacement, but some remain. A count will be provided next meeting.

#### Other

Behrns presented a full draft of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2012-13. He requested comments, questions, and suggested changes be given him as quickly as possible. The budget will have a public hearing on March 19, prior to adoption.

Chief Dudgeon had been prepared to talk about problems with the machines which logs radio traffic for the Police Department. However, it was repaired by Mustain, at least for the time being.

#### As May Arise

Sanders had talked to Mr. Cornett, who owns the damaged greenhouse facility. Cornett believes the City should provide sewer service. Behrns said a sewer main runs through the property, but there is no tap. Service lines are not the City’s responsibility except for inspection. Behrns told Sanders that he did not believe the City agreed to make a tap as part of process of acquiring the interceptor easement, but he will research the records.

The Committee discussed progress on citing a variety of nuisances and dangerous structures.

Behrns told Simmons that mulch and compost were available now, and more would be on hand in late summer. City crews could be used to help load the material. There should be plenty for use in a proposed church-sponsored community garden. The last attempt at a garden (at the Intermediate School) failed because of bad soil conditions.

Mayor Grenke noted that Curt Kelley had completed the ADA repair work on the restroom next to the council chambers.

The Committee adjourned at about 8:07 p.m.