

## **Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, May 7, 2012.**

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

### Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department. Forsee said that the sewer crew made a trip to the City of Hallsville to help clean sewers and culverts. They will be billed for the service. Forsee also explained the WET test was a standardized test of water quality which measures the survival of very small fish in a water sample. In this case, the fish died, and the test had to be rerun because it was part of an annual certification process of our testing laboratory and the fish should have survived in the test sample.

Forsee distributed the results of bidding for a new 2" trash pump. The outcome was very good. We bid just at the time that one vender was conducting a sale. Nu Way Concrete in Jefferson City was the lowest bidder at \$945.00. Simmons moved that the City buy the pump from the lows bidder. Wilkins second the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion and it passed.

The City had expected to receive quotes for replacement of a control panel for the pumps at the Northwest Sewer Treatment Plant. Several options are possible, but final prices were not available in time. Current equipment is weathered and past its useful life span. The panels will be installed by the electric crew. Purchase of this item will be on the regular Board agenda. At that time, Forsee said that he will also have a quote ready for pump equipment at the Benoit farm.

Forsee said that ECHO should start installation work on the first phase of the water system SCADA within the next three weeks.

### Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. Mustain reported many outages from lightning damage. The crew replaced three transformers after one storm and one transformer another day. There was also one downed wire and several tripped cutouts.

Mustain told Bormann that the flashes of bright light near the Miles ditch were caused when heavy, wet branches short-circuit the lines. He found no lasting damage, and this particular line will be moved underground as part of the ditch project.

Behrns reported on the results of the new contracts for power purchases for 2015 and 2016. The new contract price will be \$41.69 per MWh, compared to the \$43.40 for the contract which last through 2014. This will drop total wholesale electric cost and head off any future rate increases through that time. There are other power and transmission costs which increase the total "all-in" costs. Presently the City pays in the range of \$61-63 MWh. Ameren Energy Marketing remains the contract provider. AEM seems to be betting that EPA regulations on coal generating plants will be deferred and that gas supplies will stay cheap. Behrns said that the bid rate is good insurance.

Mustain reported that Centralia was accepting a radio repeater from PWSD #10. Their employees seldom use radios and plan to rely on cell phones for internal communications. The equipment is in good shape and presently mounted on the City's west water tower. The immediate cost will be \$200 to change a FCC license from the District to the City. Latter the repeater will have to be reprogrammed to narrow band t the same time as other of the City's utility radios. The City would still allow District to use the frequency when needed.

The Missouri Public Utility Alliance asked for its members to send letters of support for the AMEREN and Westinghouse joint proposal to install "mini" nuclear reactors next to the present Calloway site. Simmons moved and Wilkins seconded that the Mayor be authorized to write such a letter on behalf of the City and send it to Secretary Chu of the Department of Energy. All members voted in favor of the motion and it was passed.

### Streets and Sanitation

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

Hoffman gave a brief report on what he had learned at a recent LTAP class of the effects of new ADA regulations for transportation and road projects.

Sanders asked about City practices for recycling cardboard. Could we take collected material to the

workshop in Mexico? Hoffman said the City is collects cardboard only from businesses. It is delivered to a container site at Hubbell/Chance, from where it is then transported with Chance's cardboard to that workshop. This has the same outcome with less expense. He also recommended that the City continue to take plastic to the vender in Millersburg, rather than the workshop or Civic Recycling. Our current contractor will accept and use a greater variety (and thus volume) of plastics. The workshop and Civic will only take two or three types of beverage bottles.

Behrns relayed a citizen's request to set up separate dumpster for scrap metal. Hoffman said that trash had not contained much metal, but we could experiment next time. The citizen had also asked about taking appliances. Mr. Johns currently takes discarded appliances away and disposes of Freon. Hoffman and Behrns did not believe it to be economic or effective to collect and transport on our own because of limited manpower and low scrap prices. The City will dispose of a large CO2 tank on the next instance of bidding for disposal of wire and scrap materials from the utilities and staff will reexamine alternatives.

After examining proposals, the engineering selection committee had Behrns discuss a contract with Christine Luebbers. A proposal has been finalized and an ordinance to adopt a contract will be on the next Board agenda. Work would be in two parts: (1) Design and bidding this year; and (2) in 2013, the lowest contractor could do construction in a prearranged manner that allows for access for Hubbell and MFA trucks. That phase would involve grade staking and construction inspection and testing. Payment under the contract would be for the actual cost of labor, plus limited expenses, but has a cap on the maximum City expense. Bormann asked that bid documents include notice that additional surveying for lost grade stakes to be at the contractor's expense.

Behrns will soon prepare bid package for asphalt overlays. He recommends parts of Southgate, North Rollins, and North Hickman Streets (unless he learns special information after the auction of the Centralia MoDOT site). The transportation sales tax should be sufficient for these and for the first phase of engineering of the Switzler project. Money should also allow for two or three blocks of new or replacement sidewalk in acknowledgment to ADA goals. Angell requested that Behrns try to encourage Chance trucks to detour all the way to Highway 22 during construction on Switzler in 2013. Behrns will talk to Hubbell about this alternative.

Hoffman described the observed condition of a 5'-diameter stormsewer which runs from Singleton under the Hubbell/Chance parking lot and to the ditch on the north of the Kansas City Southern Railroad. One northern section was replaced more than 18 years ago. The remainder is more than thirty years old. The pipe is galvanized metal and rotted out in its bottom. Hoffman will conduct a more thorough inspection and see if the pipe needs patchy repairs or a full, new lining. Hoffman has been told that the latter can cost as more than \$400 per foot. This could become a multi-year project. There will be more to report as the Board looks next year's budget. Hoffman and the Water Department will also be looking at culverts at NE sewer lagoons. We are not sure if a large pipe needs replacement or patches. Inspection must wait for the creek to go down.

Hoffman told committee that a culvert under Highway 22 was MoDOT responsibility.

Hoffman presented two quotes for a limited amount of street crack sealing. Christensen Construction Co. was low. Sanders asked if other potential bidders were ignored. Behrns said that staff asked for quotes from firms which had done the same work for the City in the past. The quote included labor at prevailing wage under the present court guidelines. Behrns was not sure other qualified vendors would be available. APAC likely was not interested. Sanders suggested solicitations for small local firms. Behrns replied that they were unlikely to have e-verify, 10-hour OSHA, or be willing to take on state required prevailing wage rates. Ads in the paper would likely create the same result (if the two vendors even chose to submit again). This is a small job, where formal bidding would have relatively high administrative paper work. Bormann suggested that if City had more formally bid, we might actually end up with a higher price. Magley said he also thought the City should consider a wider advertisement for bids. Behrns was willing to start over. Other aldermen disagreed and felt the City should proceed. Simmons moved that the City accept the proposal from Christensen for street crack sealing at \$225 per hour for labor and equipment use, plus \$30/box for sealer. Wilkins seconded the motion. After discussion, all members voted aye, although Sanders again said that he would have preferred that the City have conducted more a formal bidding.

During cleanup week, the City accepted 53.16 tons of waste. This is the lowest amount ever (59.55 tons was collected last year.) Bad weather may have contributed. More citizens have recently put out large items with their regular trash. Behrns said the special period still seemed to be a worthwhile service.

As May Arise

The Mayor set May 26 at 9 a.m. to be a time for the Board to pickup trash along Singleton Street.

Mayor Grenke said he will be on annual National Guard training from June 1 to June 17. He may be able to participate in committee meetings by phone.

Behrns reported that the CADCO service on no longer available usable through local cable television. The equipment has become obsolete. It cannot be used for digital channels. And will not be supported by Charter Communications. Households also have more choices to cable, including satellite television, telephone and broadband lines, so the service is less effective. There are emergency broadcast network and National Weather Service venues, but it will be more difficult to get out quick localized warnings to Centralians. Behrns will be talking to LEPC members about any alternatives for local warnings of emergencies such as chemical spills.

Behrns was asked to look at street patching or curb relocation at the corner of Columbia and Lakeview. Behrns was reluctant to remove any curb on the east. Staff will first try to further widen the roadway on the west, while staying within the City's right-of-way.

Committee members briefly discussed some recent weed notices.

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