

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, June 4, 2012.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Bormann at about 7:25 p.m. Present were Aldermen Bormann, Sanders, Wilkins, Angell, and Magley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, Will Mustain, Kenny Cooley, Darryl Spauldin, Clifford de la Rose, Evelyn Robertson, Joe Bryson, Bob Snell, Richard Hatfield, Sayer Auck, James Smith, and others. Mayor Grenke participated by telephone, but did not vote on any matters.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comments for Citizens

Will Mustain of 13 Leabrook told the Committee that he was proposing an East Scout project involving restoring and installing an antique-style decorative street light at Jaycee Park. He already has permission from the Park Board. The new light would be installed on the same circuit for the nearby dusk-to-dawn lights, so the City would be paying for power in the future. His efforts would be checked for workmanship and safety by his father, Mark Mustain. No aldermen had any objections, and Behrns was able to grant permission.

Streets and Sanitation

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

Behrns has visited the Engineering School at MU to see if students could undertake to provide engineering work for the possible reconstruction of Switzler Street. He was told by Mary McCrush of the Civil Engineering Department that they once did such work as part of extension outreach, but that practice had ended many, many years ago. Design and bidding work on the project would have to be done by a professional engineer.

Hoffman said he had checked with Bobcat for the cost and availability of renting a milling attachment for the City's skid loader. The cost for one week with a 24' milling head was quoted at \$1,200. Magley asked if Hoffman had checked with RSC. Hoffman said no, but he could. Sanders said that this was not really the "milling machine" he had expected. Hoffman will seek more alternatives than just Bobcat, and would see if any larger attachment would fit on the City's equipment.

Several residents of the southwest of the City were present to express complaints about dust created by traffic on S. Columbia Street. This is a gravel stretch of about 700 feet between Gano Chance Drive and the start of concrete pavement on Columbia. The old "pavement" of accumulated seal coats had pot-holed frequently, and resisted attempts to patch or otherwise smooth. At the suggestion of an engineer from Boone County, the City let the road return to rock and bladed it more often. The road has a high traffic volume and cars move fast. The weather had been dry recently; and there is much dust, which drifts across the railroad tracks to Central Street. Hatfield stated he was often unable to enjoy his patio. Hoffman contacted the firm which has been awarded the bid for dust control on roads in Boone County. Scotwood Industries told him that the County's season had passed. To do the work in Centralia, they would have to bring a full 3,000-gallon tank. That would be sufficient for Columbia Street and also the south part of Ivy Street (the only other significant stretch of unpaved street. Bormann objected to the estimated cost of \$3,800. This work would not last if the street were bladed. The work would become any annual expense until the developer was positioned to plat the adjacent land. At the moment, \$500 is set in a bank account for each lot sold (although part of the balance was

previously used for another section of pavement adjacent to Plat 2. Angell suggested that the cost would be significantly less if scheduled at the same time as the prime County work. However, this would leave the citizens waiting for a year for a modestly effective process. Behrns noted one phone caller suggested blocking Columbia Street, but the suggestion found no traction among Committee members. Behrns suggested that the City could pave the street now and apply the incremental funds from lot sales to reimbursing the City. Bormann noted that if the City contracted the work, it would have to be done at prevailing wage rates and be more expensive. Cooley suggested an asphalt pavement. Staff said that this would not work, since the base and drainage is poor. For a lasting pavement, the cost would be almost as much as the concrete road was designed. The Committee discussed the issue for some time. Eventually, they decided to let Bormann talk to Boyd Harris (representative of the developers) and see if there was a path to early paving. Hatfield said he could live with the dust, if he knew that a permanent fix would be done next year. Behrns will check with the Martinsburg Bank to find out the present account balance.

Water and Sewer Department

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

Forsee presented a bid tabulation for pipe and other materials to extend water mains adjacent to Highways 124 and 22 next to the new site for Forrest Chevrolet. The project was longer than minimum, so that the City would never have to cut across paved driveways and parking lots. Simmons moved to approve the purchase of the material from HD Supply for a cost of \$10,428.94. Sanders seconded the motion. On roll-call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion and it was passed.

Electric Department

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

Mustain said that he had not yet received quotes for conduit and materials for extending electric power to the new Forrest site. He is also awaiting quotes for transformers needed to replace stock equipment needed for upgrades at the Middle School. Bids will be brought to next week's committee meeting if available.

As May Arise

Behrns presented letter from Debbie Sullivan, who wrote thanks for the control of alley parking during Anchor Festival. The extra signs and attention by the police had been effective. Spauldin agreed--this time parking control worked and there were fewer scuff laws in general.

Behrns reported that he had found a stock traffic sign reading: "Higher Fines Start Here" for school zone speeding. The 18" x 24" signs would cost \$24.95. After discussion, Behrns was instructed to order enough signs for installation at the Middle School and Intermediate School.

Behrns reported on that MoDOT was conducting a speed study on Highway 22. They were at first suggesting that the speed limit on the west side of the City stay at 60 mph between the old limits and the new. Before a final determination, they will look again and take the relocation of Forrest Chevrolet into consideration. At a citizen's request, they are also studying whether to lower limits on the east side of the City. Behrns will prepare an amendment to the City Code when MoDOT's work is done. In it, the term "City limits" will no longer be used for site positions on highways. Instead we will use street names or exact distances.

Behrns also said that one citizen has asked about progress in getting stop lights at Highway 22 and Jefferson. She was told the intersection at Highway 124/151 would likely be first, but neither location is likely to get a light in the near future. The caller also said the City should examine and try to address the “rough” ride on S. Jefferson.

Behrns was asked to trim the cedar tree at Highway 22 and Jefferson for line of sight. Mustain told Committee that he is still checking other intersections for trees and bushes which obscure stop signs. Some work is done, more is in progress. Also, Mr. Hughes is concerned about line-of-sight for the COLT tracks at Gano Chance Drive. Behrns has permission from Ed Bettenhausen to work from his field.

Jon Rakers and Chris Lynn spoke, saying they were happy that Paulus Lawson’s yard on Gano Chance Drive was finally mowed, but it was a bad job. The “hay” was not collected and the mower trespassed on the neighbors’ lots. Rakers wanted to ban such agricultural uses if necessary to protect neighbors. He said that Mexico and Moberly had ordinances which would not allow similar conditions. If not that approach, then perhaps the City could set a time limit to at least require mowing by May 15, July 15 and September 15. He thought Lawson was not even trying to obey the spirit of the law and should be cited. Lawson’s contract mower, fortunately, did not break an electric dog fence. Also, the mowing left too much room around several trees. Lynn said that no baling had occurred since 2005. Behrns was directed to get copies of ordinances from other cities so that matter could be discussed again next week.

Clifford de la Rosa spoke and distributed a schedule of work he plans for the Narraganset Building during the rest of year. He said he has been unable to follow his previous schedule because of a leg injury. Angell asked if de la Rosa thought he was catching up or falling behind. Is the proposed work really cost effective? De la Rosa said he had turned the corner and was catching up; it is more feasible in long run to repair the building instead of demolishing it. Angell suggested that de la Rosa was losing to the elements

Coolley wished to discuss the need for reconstruction of Switzler. He felt that milling and an overlay would be sufficient. Bormann disagreed, saying there was not sufficient base, and the existing profile was too high for milling. Bormann said he talked to executives and engineers at Hubbell and other engineers in the area. All agreed the existing street is structurally defective. This proposed work was in support of the City’s major industry, which was trying to grow back local employment. Snell, Dana and Cindy Daum and other members of the audience agreed with the suggestion that the street needed work soon. They also thought the work on removing a street tree should have been done earlier; Mustain said it was on Asplundh’s work list.

Evelyn Robertson asked how de la Rosa and others could get away with so much junk on their properties. She was told that the properties were zoned for industrial uses, which allows for repair of cars and machinery.

Paul Roberts spoke of his work experience and said he thought Howard Burton Drive was deteriorating and needed work. Committee said that the City would look at it for next year. There followed more discussion and strong disagreement on what approach was best for repairing Switzler Street. Spauldin said he did not think that core samples had been taken properly. Staff said this was of no consequence. It was important to detain depth and type of base for engineering design; but if the base

was gone, the road would need to be rebuilt from scratch.

Cooley also objected to the City's priorities for crack sealing and the fact that Emerald Dr. was not finished. Behrns said he had set priorities, not Hoffman. This year's project ended when the Board's allowance was spent. Sealing will be continued next year and following years.

The Committee adjourned at about 8:50 p.m.

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