

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, July 2, 2012.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Bormann at about 7:25 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Simmons, Sanders, and Magley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, Darryl Spauldin, Richard Hatfield, Don Bobbitt, James Smith, and others.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comments for Citizens

Bobbitt inquired whether a house on Sneed Street had been issued a contract for a demolition incentive. Behrns said it had and preliminary work had also been done on the demolition permit application. He gave a review of other projects with incentive contracts and explained that demolition had to be complete and the land cleaned and leveled before the incentive was paid. Behrns said that the contract did not set a fixed deadline for the demolition. Bobbitt said that, given the limited number of contracts, there should be a fixed time specified for fulfillment, and that it should be short. Behrns will consult with the City Attorney about possible contract revisions.

Spauldin noted that a party to the incentive contract had to pay income taxes on the \$1,500.00.

Water and Sewer Department

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

Hoffman said that Lee Ed England had looked at the sewer lagoon culvert replacement project and decided that he did not want to undertake the work. After discussion, Committee had no objections to renting a large trackhoe from Tri-State Construction Equipment at a cost of \$3,200 per week.

Forsee presented a bid tabulation for a variety of parts and materials for the water distribution system. Low bid came from Water and Sewer Supply at \$5,240.70. This purchase will be on the regular Board agenda for approval.

Forsee told the Committee that they had to manually read or replace 18 water meters in June. This was about average.

Forsee reported of a recent inspection of the sanitary sewer treatment operations by a representative of DNR. It seems to have gone well, but he and Behrns will be expected to respond to questions and comments in a future inspection report.

Electric Department

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

Mustain told the Committee that Asplundh had done some tree work, but was working slowly. The City's first priority was line clearance in mid-block easements. Most work on street-side trees is being reserved for the Electric crew, unless there was some sort of immediate hazard.

Mustain reported that he was researching the cost of replacing control cards for the City's six radio-activated emergency warning sirens. He is expecting a full bid soon to present to the board. The work is necessary because of new Federal requirements for a change to narrow-band radio use. The final quote may be close to \$11,000. Because of the large demand, installation may be 8-12 weeks after

placing the order. No change is necessary in the City's radio licenses.

The Electric crew has been trenching and drilling holes through building foundations in preparation for installation of wiring for the water system SCADA system, which is almost ready.

Water mains and electric lines are now installed for service west of Highway 124 for the new Forrest Chevrolet site. They should be ready to drive over after tomorrow.

Streets and Sanitation

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

Committee addressed the issue of dust control on S. Columbia. Mr. Harris was recovering from health issues and not able to attend. Aldermen discussed the possibility of paving the 720 feet of street now and recovering costs has the Southwest Country Estates Subdivision was built out. Behrns acknowledged that there was no guarantee that Plat 3 and any other future plats would be presented soon. If bid by the City according to the approved plans, the cost might be as high as \$90,000 because of prevailing wage rate requirements. The developers do not want to pay for the extra expense and would want to examine a proposed contract revision

Bormann said he favored trying to pave instead of chemical dust control, which would be at least an annual recurring cost and more expensive for this first year. Hatfield asked for paving the road or closing it. He estimated that at least ten household have experience significant problems with the dust.

In the end, Sanders moved that the City pay for chemical dust control as soon as possible and that Behrns work with the City Attorney on drafting a contract that would facilitate an agreement for early paving. Magley seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Sanders, Magley, and Simmons. Voting against was Bormann. The motion carried and staff will arrange for the work to be done soon.

Behrns reported that Kevin Prenger had asked for a clear indication of the aldermen's opinion, should he want to take out a grassy strip of land that separates the parking lot at the old Prengers store from the parking lot in the middle of city property originally dedicated for Bradford Street right-of-way. The area would be used to add parking for the new Prenger's convenience store. Behrns mis-described the strip as triangular and underestimated the number of spaces which could be available. However, Bormann was concerned that the new spaces might be restricted to Prenger's customers. He asked if there could be assurances that the spaces would be also available for use for middle school events, since the land was public property. Committee was generally favorable, but told Behrns that they would want to see a specific plans and receive assurances for public access before approval.

Behrns reported that bids on the sale of scrap metal and on asphalt overlays of several streets would be opened next week. Both items will be on the regular Board agenda.

As May Arise

Spauldin told the committee that staff was not properly taking proper safety measures in the coming replacement of culverts at the northeast sewer lagoons. He said that the City had to comply with OSHA regulations. Bormann and Grenke said that was not true—OSHA did not apply to Cities. They said that, in any case, the City would be doing the work safely. Spauldin tried to argue the point, but Committee closed discussion.

The Committee adjourned at about 7:55 p.m.
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