

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, October 1, 2012.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Bormann at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Simmons, Sanders, Wilkins, Angell, and Magley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, Christine Loubbert, Kenny Coolley, Lorry Myers, and James Smith.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments for Citizens

Myers, on behalf of CREDI and the Chamber of Commerce, commented on the "Purchase with a Purpose" campaign. This is a program to encourage shopping locally, which will have a kick-off on November 1 at the Centralia Country Club. She showed a special logo for the campaign and received encouragement from the Committee members.

Engineer's Presentation

Loubbert displayed preliminary drafts of proposed reconstruction of Jefferson Street between the two railroads and Switzler Street between Jefferson and Howard Burton. The false curb on the west side of Jefferson would not be replaced. Surface drainage would flow to the east side of the street. Short "Jersey barriers" would help protect the entrance to the electric substation and the power poles, hydrant, and fence along the Hubbell parking lot. This work would be in two phases to preserve access. A temporary access to MFA may be rocked in. Work will likely be next August, a slack time for farmers and MFA. City crews may do some stormsewer installation in advance to save money and make contracted work more focused and shorter duration.

Switzler's grade will match to Jefferson at their intersection. Some milling may be necessary. Any work would have to allow for an existing stormsewer box culvert on the west, and reconstruction would lock in future designs when a full replacement of North Jefferson is done. The Switzler work will disrupt parking access only to residents of two or three properties, who may have to park on side streets. Aldermen and staff had few suggestions. Loubbert will report if there are any complications, but the project is on track to be bidding before end of year.

Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. There was a short discussion about re-reads and bad transpondits. The equipment on electric meters is mostly the original equipment, with a few hand-me-downs from older water meters. Re-reads are mostly for "tamperers". These have to be checked, but are not usually caused by customers. Replacements represent only a low fraction of the total.

Mustain is helping with maintenance at the farmers' pivot irrigation facilities. He presented quotes for power pump primers for the pump station at the Sims pond. These pieces of equipment cannot be efficiently repaired and are near twenty-five years old. Lowest bid was from Nebraska Irrigation for \$2,266.07. The City would buy one after Board approval and budget for one in each of the next two years. The Sims site has the largest pumps for the largest number of pivots. Behrns pointed out that this equipment belonged to the City, which was responsible for replacement and major repairs.

Water and Sewer Department

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

Forsee presented bids for water distribution materials, mostly for Cobblestone Lake Estates Plat 2. The developers are already working on street construction, so some of the pieces are needed soon. Simmons moved to purchase the list of supplies for \$19,242.95 from Water & Sewer Supply. Wilkins seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the motion passed.

Forsee presented a bid for three fire hydrants for the same project. Wilkins moved to purchase the hydrants from H. D. Supply Waterworks for \$4,302.66. Simmons seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the motion passed.

Forsee presented bids for a replacement pickup truck—from Joe Machens for a Ford and from Forrest for a Chevrolet. Both use pricing from the state coop bid. The Committee discussed the purchase at length, questioning whether the bid from Forrest was really an “in-town” quote. Fords are serviced in Mexico, Chevrolets in Centralia at Forrest under the warrantee. Later, the crews use competitive venders throughout the City on a rotating basis. Committee discussed whether the cost of maintenance and repairs, including opportunity costs for driving to the vender, was enough to balance the higher bid for the Chevrolet. Simmons moved to buy the 2013 pickup from Forrest. Bormann seconded the motion. Voting aye were Bormann, Wilkins, Simmons, Sanders, and Angell. Voting nay was Magley. The motion passed.

Streets and Sanitation

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

Hoffman presented bids for paint for waterproofing the walls of the businesses adjoining 105 N. Allen. Sanders questioned whether wall repair were complete. He cited inadequate tuck pointing. Bormann and staff said that total tuck pointing was not in the contract with Five Oaks. Committee agreed that Staff will inspect the walls and consult with Sanders to do any reasonable tuck pointing before painting. Meanwhile, Sanders moved and Simmons seconded to buy 125 gallons of waterproofing paint from LaCrosse Lumber for \$3,466.25. All present voted aye and the motion was passed.

Hoffman said that Daynes Disposal indicated it would furnish and empty dumpsters for next year’s Spring Clean Up for the same unit cost as this year. Daynes’ bid was by far the lowest when the work was bid last spring. Committee engaged in discussion, but took no action at this time. Hoffman noted that the volume of trash collected in the clean up continued to diminish as more customers made better use of their weekly pickups.

Hoffman reviewed areas of recent City-installed overlays and patches. Angell said he would like to see work near the intersection of Lakeview and Jefferson to remove tire ruts.

Hoffman said that the Miles Ditch project was finished, except for a few cap stones near the east end of Sims Street. Most of the fill and leveling is done, but some landscaping may carry over to spring. Next year the budget will focus on stormsewer repair of large pipe under the Hubbell parking lot west of Jefferson. The crew will return to the ditch paving on the east side of Miles in 2014.

City GIS Program

Behrns said the time was close to initiate the procurement of a Geo-based Information System. This is an item included in the present budget using a preliminary proposal from Midland DIS. Midland is an established firm with scores of municipal and county users across Missouri and Kansas. It could

incorporate Boone County's base maps and parcel codes and is FEMA compatible for flood plain mapping. Mayor Grenke said that he had met a representative of Tri-state Engineering while at the MML conference. This person was promoting use of an "open source" program and field work by City employees. It would require purchase of a \$5,000 piece of equipment. Staff questioned the possible demand on staff time. Bormann was concerned about accuracy on sewer data. Behrns will research the open source solution and will also consult with the Mid-Mo Regional Planning Commission. They do similar work (probably through a vender). Behrns wants to look at client references for each.

As May Arise

Simmons asked that the City consider updating the City Code more frequently. Behrns said annually is the usual standard. City Attorney Beck working on an update now. He and Behrns will examine the possibility of updated the on-line Code more frequently, but doing hard copies only annually.

Mayor Grenke read two letters from Martha Willingham. One thanked the City for passing a ban on synthetic marijuana. The other suggested the City examine an experimental program in the Netherlands, where "fix-it cafes" help reduce waste and aid the poor.

Committee discussed a request from St. Louis Mayor Slay about a constitutional amendment to give St. Louis authority over its own police force. The aldermen did not determine to take any collective action. However, aldermen can add endorsements of their own.

Mayor Grenke has been told that the City of Joplin was aided by having conducted an EMS exercise a few weeks before its tornado disaster. The mayor felt it would be good to have a comprehensive test in Centralia. Behrns will take this idea to the LEPC as a suggestion for one of their upcoming exercise scenarios.

The Committee adjourned at about 9:30 p.m.