

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, February 4, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Bormann at about 7:10 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Wilkins, Simmons, Angell, and Magley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Mike Forsee, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, James Lee, Police Chief Dudgeon, and James Smith.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments for Citizens

There were no comments.

Streets and Sanitation

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Departments. Forsee noted that street work on Sunset was related to repair of a water service.

Behrns said that an advertisement would be in the Guard on February 13 announcing the bidding of street replacement work on Switzler Street and Jefferson Street. We will hold a pre-bid meeting with the contractors on February 28, and the bid opening will be on March 13. The Board can then let the contract at its March 18 meeting. Several aldermen said they desired to attend the pre-bid and bid opening.

Hoffman said that the Street Department has been able to accomplish quite a bit of stormsewer maintenance and flushing.

Daniel Dean has been hired to replace retired street equipment operator Terry Sweezor. Dean started this morning

The replacement heaters for the Street Barn bays are installed and working wells. Hoffman noted that electric crew was also able to change out the remainder of fluorescent lights with fixtures that meet new energy efficiency regulations.

Water and Sewer Department

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

Committee discussed a problem with some sort of clothes or rags in sewer lines. Staff has narrowed down to about a block the area where the material originates. They have put out door hangers, and a notice was added to the City web site. The Spring newsletter will also highlight the problem. The material can block sewer services and small mains, but of most concern is that lift station pumps will be clogged and the pumps damaged. Staff thinks that the material may come from discarded Swifter mop heads. Forsee said that the crew has already added bar screens to catch as much of the material as possible before it can get to the pumps, and that the screens are being cleaned several times each week..

Forsee complained that DNR has lost documentation of his attendance to some training sessions. He will have to take several additional classes in the near future to get extra continuing education hours. He is frustrated.

A representative from Insituform was here on Friday to measure the length of sewer mains Forsee

wants to slip line. Forsee hopes to have enough budgeted funds to do most of the alleys between Allen Street and Bradford Street and running between Sneed Street and Bruton or Sims. Forsee believes these to be the remaining sewers with the poorest condition.

Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. Members had no comments or questions.

Mustain is doing research and hopes to find less expensive alternatives for replacing the decorative style of street lights. He only needs a few, but has none on hand, and there is a vacant base on South Rollins where one was destroyed by a car. Mustain is also examining new LED style bulbs to use in these lights. These bulbs are more expensive, yet more efficient. They should pay for themselves in four or five years. They will have a slightly different color spectrum, so esthetic replacement will be tricky on street lengths with many such lights in a row. Larger LED bulbs are available for cobra-head fixtures, but are not yet cost effective. Mustain hopes to have purchase recommendations for the next board agenda.

Budget Consideration.

Behrns reported that he has not had time to prepare new draft budgets for the public utilities. He just received Operating Statements. There have been no surprises since the last meeting, so he is still assured that no rate increases will be necessary. The updated drafts will be in the packet, together with a General Fund summary for the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting next week.

As May Arise

To avoid repetitive requests and rejections, representatives of the employee union wished to meet directly with Board members. The Aldermen were agreeable for just this one instance. The Union will have a place on the Board agenda for February 19. Behrns made a first reminder that the next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, since President's Day is a City Holiday and the City Code specifies the change.

Behrns asked the aldermen to bring their remaining Code books to him for updating with Supplement #12.

The Committee adjourned at about 7:40 p.m.