

## **Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, March 4, 2013.**

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

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor cited the City crews for their diligent hard work maintaining the streets and utilities during the back-to-back snow storms. The rest of the committee members agreed.

### Comments for Citizens

There were no comments.

### Water and Sewer Department

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

Bormann asked how the bar screens were helping with control of cloth-like materials in the sewer mains. Forsee said that Randy Adams was cleaning them almost daily at first. However, our advertizing was apparently working. Soon, the task may be down to weekly. His crew has added a basket to supplement the screens. The committee members suggested that copies of the warning notices be posted at supermarkets and other stores where swifter mop refills are sold. Behrns will ask those stores for permission to post the notices.

### Electric Department

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

Mayor Grenke inquired about outages from the snow storm. Mustain explained that all were service drop problems to individual customers. The City disconnected the lines and then reattached them after any damage to mastheads were repaired by private electricians. Three of four customers were back on the same day. The other was on the next day.

Mustain distributed a bid tabulation for decorative street lights. We are out of poles in inventory, and one pole on Rollins Street remains to be replaced. Mustain tried to find a cheaper substitute, but they are all manufactured to mate with different style bases. A total replacement would be more expensive than staying with the current style. After reviewing the tab sheet, Simmons moved that the City accept the bid of Fletcher-Reinhardt for six poles at a total cost of \$5,604.00. Wilkins seconded the motion. The vote was called and all members present voted in favor of the motion.

### Streets and Sanitation

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Departments. Hoffman told the board that the sanitation crew was "caught up" with the trash routes, but this was because many people had not put out trash, and a portion of what was set out had been covered with snow piles.

Hoffman told Simmons that remaining supplies of salt and sand were likely sufficient to last the remainder of the season. He does need to quickly acquire cold patch. Several streets are developing severe pot holes, and Sneed Street has an overlay peeling off in many places.

Hoffman reported that his crew had been able to partially dewater the stormsewer running under the Hubbell parking lot west of Jefferson Street. There is much silt and sand that will have to be mechanically removed, and the bottom has rusted in many places (but not the top). He is still exploring options for restoration.

Committee agreed that the Spring Cleanup shall begin on April 13 and run through April 22—with two weekends of availability, as usual).

#### Closed Session

Simmons then moved that the Committee elect to go into closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purpose of such closed session and closed vote shall be preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of the City of Centralia or its representatives for negotiation with an employee group, as provided for under Section 610.021 (9) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Angell seconded the motion. On roll call vote all members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

The committee discussed ongoing union negotiation. They took no votes on matters discussed. After the discussion, Angell moved and Simmons seconded a motion to return to open session. On roll call vote all members present voted in favor and the motion passed. The committee returned to open session in the Council Room.

#### As May Arise

Committee members gave consent to putting a “Purchase with a Purpose” flier in with the April city newsletter and utility bills.

Behrns distributed bound copies of the full draft budget for the officials to review. Any questions or changes can be brought up at the next meeting for correction before the public hearings and adoption scheduled for March 17.

During the pre-bid meeting with potential bids for the Switzler Street replacement project, Behrns talked to Ron Stuart, who is now the sole owner of the property west of Hunters Ridge Subdivision. Mr. Stuart is now open to dedicating the remaining right-of-way for relocation of Randolph Road to a more direct connection with Highway 22. Behrns will pursue this in the next few months. About \$120,000 is in an escrow account of the General Fund and available to construct the south portion of the new street.

Committee briefly discussed the continued deterioration of the Narraganset Building.

Simmons added a public “thank you” to the several citizens who helped clear snow and open driveway in the residential areas of town. Centralia is blessed with a high proportion of residents who own snow blades and skid loaders and who rose to the occasion to help their neighbors.

The Committee adjourned at about 8:00 p.m.