

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, May 6, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Bormann at 7:15 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Simmons, Magley, Angell, Lee, and Wilkins. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Mike Forsee, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, Don Bobbitt, and James Smith.

Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department. Committee members had no questions.

Electric Department

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

Mustain presented a quotation from Arkansas Electric for pad-mount transformers. Arkansas Electric had not been able to match their prices from the last time we purchased transformers from them, but had only increased them slightly and were still lower than their competitors from last time. Mustain has been pleased with the quality of their products. After a short discussion, Simmons moved and Magley seconded that the Electric Department be allowed to order ten 25-kva pad mount transformers and ten 50-kva pad-mount transformers for a total cost \$26,250.00. On roll call vote, all aldermen voted in favor and the motion passed.

Behrns noted that a further purchase might be necessary in late summer, if the developers of one of the large subdivisions decided to commence on their phase 3.

Streets and Sanitation

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

Hoffman reported that 11 dumpsters were used and 38 ½ tons of waste was collected during Spring Cleanup Week. This is the lowest participation ever. Weather was a contributing factor, but more residents are setting out larger items on regular collection days.

Behrns reported that the City had no operable trash truck, due to a fire. The trucks had been locked and were empty; and the fire department was not able to determine a cause, due to the extent of destruction. We will send the older, backup truck for repairs and use it as the primary unit until the future of trash service is decided. The newer truck would have to be replaced, since it is totaled. Daynes from Mexico is to supply a truck and driver, short term at \$80 per hour until the backup truck is returned. This will probably not happen until after Anchor Festival. The City had almost \$74,000 in reserves at the end of last fiscal year and has projected \$96,900 by next March. This would be available to purchase a new or reconditioned truck. Much depends on the size of the insurance award.

Bormann suggested a review of whether the City should contract out trash collection service. Behrns recited history of the last time this occurred. He is not sure if the environment of the industry has changed and would yield different results. Staff has determined that new and used trucks can be identified at TrashTrucksforSale.com. These are single units—not really a bid situation. The previous truck cost \$137,501 three years ago. Formal bidding might take more than nine months for delivery of a truck. Hoffman made a case for contacting. Daynes is highly interested and promoting methods

taking over operation. Behrns said that this would be a bidding option, and he had been contacted by other trash haulers. Even with contracted collection, the City would have to keep the Sanitation Fund because 17 years remain in the state obligation of post closure care of the three old landfill sites. The City also has perhaps \$139,000 in annual expenses for billing, brush grinding, methane testing, and other non-collection operations. To end collection operations, the cost of a vender would have to be less than what we are paying for that segment of the budget. This cost is dependent on "extras" such as recycling, special events, call back collections from school, etc. that might be specified in the bid criteria.

Angell said he was concerned about how the present employees would be treated. Behrns said the usual practice to require the contractor to hire present employees. But it is highly likely that they would not be paid as well or have equal employee benefits compared to the present day.

Committee came to no decision. Behrns was asked to find the bid documents from the last contracting was studied and prepare for updated proposals.

Hoffman said his department was focusing on storm sewer replacement and installation on Switzler Street, prior to the repaving project there.

As May Arise

None

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

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