

## **Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, August 5, 2013.**

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

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Comments from Citizens

Scott presented a complaint about a situation involving a fire alarm at the Hubbell/Chance facilities on North Allen Street. Scott said the alarm was loud and was not turned off for more than twelve hours—at 9:40 a.m. on Sunday morning. He repeatedly requested that the Police Department issue a citation to Hubbell for peace disturbance, but none was forthcoming. Eventually, the police issued Scott a citation and a no-trespass order. He asked that the aldermen provided him with an explanation. Mayor Grenke said that he will research the situation.

### Water and Sewer Department

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

Committee members had no questions.

Forsee asked if the City could reconsider its unwritten policy of using “flowable fill” to fill in excavations in public streets. The use of flowable fill goes back more than twenty years. Then, the City had a problem with street patches subsiding as the aggregate and clay fill compacted. Flowable fill was recommended by many cities in the St. Louis area. It is a sand, cement, and water mix that completely fills a trench and sets up quickly, but can latter be easily scrapped away with backhoes and hand tools.

However, this is not always the way it works out for us. Perhaps because excavations are infrequent, the local readi-mix venders have not always supplied flowable fill with the proper consistency. Sometimes, it takes too long to solidify; sometimes it hardens to a concrete density (that would later take a jack hammer to break up). This situation seems not likely to get better. The utility crews believe that the City would best be served by returning to an aggregate fix, compacted in lifts. Magley noted that Columbia requires a bridging lift of concrete before a final surface lift of asphalt. The department heads said that this might be extreme and make access to pipes as difficult as the flowable fill can be. Angell said that the department heads had discussed this beforehand, and that their recommendation should carry weight. He indicated that he would like to run the matter by an acquaintance with relevant experience. All alternatives seemed to come with a greater need for inspection by City personnel. Behrns noted that overtime costs for weekend call outs could rise.

Eventually, committee members instructed Behrns to prepare a draft ordinance that required permits and set specifications for all street cuts. Behrns said that he could review the requirements for several other cities and have a draft ready for the September committee meeting.

Forsee present a bid tabulation for a large amount of pipe and fittings for future water and sewer projects and replenish stock for his department. He said that some might be needed before the regular Board meeting. Simmons moved to purchase the material from Water and Sewer Supply for \$5,984.44. Magley seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Forsee reported that Midwest GIS was finishing up on the water system locates and will be supplying a

preliminary map soon. Mustain is already examining the draft map of the electric system. The locator crew may come back again to double check some readings after the foliage canopy is gone. Forsee said that the Midwest crews were very professional and actually found several blockages and other problems which the City crews could correct.

#### Electric Department

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

#### Streets and Sanitation

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

Hoffman said that the new trash truck was performing well. The repairs on the spare truck had finally been completed and it was returned on Friday. Hoffman intends to use it several days and test it before Labor Day's double trash routes.

Hoffman told Angell that the sweeper also was working well. The City is sweeping at least once per week. This will become more frequent when leaves start dropping. The vacuum hose has been effective in cleaning out stormsewer basins. The Street crews have also installed or replaced several sections of culvert.

Construction staking is in place for Cannon to start the replacement work on Switzler Street as weather permits.

#### Other

None.

#### As May Arise

Bormann and James Smith asked about an on-line EPA site which described numerous permit violations for our sewer treatment system. Staff said they were unaware of any violations, other than some need for retests. Notices are issued by the State Department of Natural Resources, not the EPA; and the City has not received any such notices. Since the City has not had any discharges for almost 2 ½ years, there can not any violations. Forsee said he will call DNR and get an explanation.

Magley asked about the repair to the boom mower tractor wheel. Hoffman said it was done quickly and the wheel was reinforced. The wheel on the other side had previously been checked and reinforced around the bolt holes before any failure occurred.

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