

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, March 3, 2014.

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

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens

None.

Street and Sanitation Department

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

Hoffman said his crew has spent most of their time coping with the weather. The City's salt supply is exhausted and not likely to be renewed before summer.

Hoffman had nothing to report on streets, sanitation services, or stormsewers.

Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. Mayor Grenke asked if the ice and winds had resulted in any problems. Mustain said the City had no recent outages.

Mustain told Magley that his crew had not yet dealt with a pole with suspected damage. Mustain thought it probably had dried rot, but is not an immediate concern because it only supported a street light, not any regular circuits.

Water and Sewer Department

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

Bormann and Mayor Grenke will join Forsee and Behrns on a subcommittee to review engineering proposals for updating the supervised construction plan for water lines. Deadline for the proposals is March 14.

Forsee reported on the possible costs for replacing the pump and sled at the lime settling pond at the water treatment plant. The pump is more than two decades old and it is impractical to repair it any longer. The cost will be slightly above \$22,000. Forsee is waiting for a confirmation from the vender that the replacement is an exact match. If so, this item will be on the regular Board agenda. Because we have not been able to dispose of lime for many months, we will have to clean out the pond manually before installing the new sled. The City will have to lease a trackhoe for a week and get assistance from the trucks and drivers in the Street Department. Forsee said to empty a full pond had taken 127 loads last time. Committee had no objections to renting the trackhoe for about \$3,000. Forsee will first get quotations, but would like to do the work before the fields get too muddy.

Budget Discussions

Behrns distributed bound copies of the full, detailed budget. He said that it contained all of the capital and special

expenditures previously described. Pursuant to the preliminary agreement with the employee union, there is an across-the-board pay increase of 4% (balanced by the 8% decrease in health insurance premiums effective in January 1.) Other small changes in the union contract had almost no fiscal impact. The Street Department will have two temporary, full-time laborers for the summer. Two employees will be recommended for merit increases. The projected salary for the city administrator is a 4% increase for the last nine months of the fiscal year and reinstates health insurance for the next administrator. This is only a place-holder until a person is hired and the actual salary is fixed.

Because of diminishing contributions and minimal interest rates, reviews for the Cemetery Fund do not begin to cover operating expenses—principally mowing. Behrns has had to include a transfer from the Electric Fund to the Cemetery Fund, so that the Perpetual Care account does not end below required levels. This will be needed to be a requirement for several years to come. The Electric Fund will be able to provide the transfer because cold weather increased revenues from February power sales and reduced power costs because Prairie State sales to the market were extremely high.

Closed Session

Simons moved that the Committee go into closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purpose of such closed session and closed vote shall be hiring, firing, disciplining, or promoting of particular employees by a public governing body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded, as provided for under Section 610.021 (3) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Lee seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Lee, Bormann, Grenke, Simmons, and Magley. No member voted nay or abstained. The motion passed.

During the closed session, members examined applications for the position of City Administrator. They took no vote, but informally decided to each would review the applicants in detail and to meet again on Friday, March 14 at 6:00 to winnow down the list for further consideration.

Return to Open Session

Simmons then moved that the Committee return to open session. Magley seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Lee, Bormann, Grenke, Simmons, and Magley. No member voted nay or abstained. The motion passed.

As May Arise

Magley asked Behrns to look into the utility bills for several residents. They seemed to vary significantly over the last three months in patterns inconsistent with the weather.

Mayor Grenke said that he will be away from May 31 through June 14 on annual drill for the National Guard.

The Committee adjourned at about 8:15 p.m.