

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Tuesday, September 8, 2015.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman, Andrea Vollrath, Chairperson at 7:00 p.m. Present also were Mayor Tim Grenke, Aldermen Landon Magley, Dick Ward, David Wilkins, Don Bormann and Jim Lee. Also attending were Matt Harline, Phil Hoffman, Mike Forsee, Mark Mustain, and James Smith of the Fireside Guard.

Pledge of Allegiance Those present recited the pledge.

Comments from Citizens. None.

Electric Department

Activity Report Grenke asked about track roller repair that is mentioned in the report. Mustain replied that the problem proved to be that the bearings were out and needed to be replaced.

DISTRIBUTION Underground Conduit Installation (Boring) Project Harline reported that four firms attended the pre-bid meeting last week and he hopes to see all four submit bids that are due tomorrow (September 9). Harline noted that the City made two major changes from the first bid process; the City had agreed to reimburse the contractor for the cost of the flagmen and this time the contractors will be bidding one bore and the second bore is an option. Harline added that the clock runs out on the Kansas City Southern permit around December 10th. Harline noted that the City will also help to hold costs down by allowing the contractors to put their boring slurry in the north pond. Harline reported that the Park Board has approved of the idea, as long as the City tests the water before and after. In answer to a question from Lee that there are three bore locations with one location on the east side under both the Norfolk Southern and KC southern lines and separate locations for a bore under each line on the west side of town.

Energy efficiency project Harline reported that Greg Modlish came to town on August 18th and did some preliminary investigation and went over possible energy savings in the City with Mark Mustain and himself. Harline reported that Modlish looked at City Hall and also worked with Mike Forsee on water pumping. Bormann asked about replacing indoor lighting with LED lights. Mustain replied the updates would not necessarily include indoor lighting as we just finished switching all those out, but the last energy efficiency work was in 1996.

POWER GENERATION

Prairie State Update: Harline reported that the Prairie State generation plant in which the City has purchased 2 MW of power (out of 1,600MW total generation) is working much more efficiently. Harline noted that it is a new power plant and difficulties are not uncommon. Harline noted that there was an opportunity to tour the plant and the mine on September 29th. Harline showed data for the last three quarters demonstrated higher percentage of operating with Unit 1 running at over 92% operation time in the last quarter. Harline noted that currently the City sells all of the power generated but the cost with the all-in costs are over \$55/MWh (actually around \$62) and sold at the market rate. Harline noted that the plant is being run better and the start-up issues are being worked out. In the next long-term power purchase we will incorporate this energy into our portfolio. Harline reminded the Board that they were able to sell some of the capacity this year.

Long-term power purchase: Harline reported that a month ago he told the Board that he was probably going to recommend a new full-requirements contract, but now Hannibal was considering a different strategy. Harline said that Hannibal was the largest part of the power purchasing group and they were going to use GDS out of Atlanta to get power from a fully managed account, buy blocks of power and filling in with short-term and day-ahead market purchases. Harline explained that if Hannibal goes that route then the costs will be higher for full-requirements for Centralia, Kahoka and

California. Harline said that he would like to have Chris Dawson of GDS address this Committee in October to explain this approach. Harline said that neither Mustain nor he had time to work on this for an hour each day and Centralia would need to rely on GDS completely. In answer to a question from Bormann Harline said that Hannibal might actually hire a person or part of a person to do the daily scheduling. Harline said he would like to have a decision about strategy by Christmas and contracts a year ahead.

Other: None

Water and Sewer Department

Activity Report Vollrath asked for comments and questions and there were none.

WATER

Valve insertion tool: Forsee reported that we used to have to dig up the line, measure the outer diameter of the pipe and then fill the hole while we wait for the valve. Forsee said that we did our first the other day and it took three hours with guidance. Forsee said the next one was quicker and the staff did it all by themselves and the valve was so much easier to turn that he could do it with one hand. Harline stated that this was the big ticket item for the Water Department this year and this showed that it was in and purchased. Forsee replied, in answer to a question from Magley, that he purchased two valves for \$5,100, as compared to about \$4,600 apiece before plus we won't have labor costs now that we can do it in house. Forsee noted that eight-inch would be about \$2,000 less each. Forsee answered a second question from Magley saying that he was considering having an extra valve in stock. Forsee noted that this allowed the water department to make repairs without shutting off the water service.

SEWER

Foresee said that as it showed in the activity report that they were repairing things and in particular the Insituform (sanitary sewer lining) work went well by the Senior Center, over behind Briarwood and on Bruton. Forsee state that he even had neighbors on Bruton report that they noticed better flow already. Forsee added that we had experienced some restrictions in these lines but we should see improvement in the rate of flow and a reduction in inflow and infiltration (i.e. I&I).

OTHER

Street and Sanitation Department

Activity Report Grenke asked about the cost of dust control on Columbia and Hoffman reported that the cost was about \$600. Magley asked if it was the firm out of Kirksville and Hoffman replied in the affirmative. Harline noted that we had received a request for dust control on Ivy but we expected to do a number of street cuts as houses were built on that street. Magley asked if the developer would be paving the street soon and Harline replied that the subdivision was old enough that the City had no way to force the developer to do so. Vollrath asked for comments and questions on the Activity Report and there were none.

SANITATION

Discussion on trash rates for multi-family and mixed use customers: Harline noted that there was a memo in the packet. Harline noted that the building recently renovated by the Greene's on Railroad Street would pay \$66 for the two dumpster tips per month, but that because of our interpretation of the ordinance we were charging them \$120.75. Harline noted that there were two four-plexes on Columbia where we would like to encourage them to use dumpsters for ease of collection and this approach would allow us to offer a discount. Harline said that by giving the reduced rate for multi-family would cost around \$2,000/year for the city. Harline said that he would like to have a special

policy for mixed use buildings that went along with an ordinance that would allow the City Administrator to design a blended rate that met the specific case. Harline said that based on his current thought process for the mixed use buildings he believed that there could be a special rate for shared dumpsters for commercial customers as well.

Harline noted that the fourth recommendation was to buy dumpsters and offer to rent them to customers. Harline replied to a question from Bormann that the cost of the dumpster rental would be an additional \$10/month and that with the current cost of a dumpster it would take a little over four years until the City had recovered their money. Hoffman noted that the City wouldn't have to chase owners around to repair their dumpsters as the City could simply switch out a good one and repair the customers and return it. Harline stated that the fifth recommendation was to allow one use of the loaner dumpster per year for free for one tip to replace the fall cleanup with additional uses costing \$11/year. Harline said we would also allow residents or contractors to rent it for \$11/week or a monthly rate. Harline said that he would like to charge \$5 per bulky item and \$15 for a special pickup. Harline said that the idea would be to bring forward an ordinance to address all these items at a meeting in the fall. Hoffman said that staff would carry a camera to take pictures to determine if it was large enough Bormann said he felt that there probably wasn't a need for recommendation #3, the shared dumpsters for commercial but the rest seemed like a good idea. Magley said that people would just leave the stuff lying around in their yard. Harline said if they left a mess in their yard it would be an abatement issue but he felt these were low enough and reasonable enough that he hoped people would understand paying for the special service. Hoffman stated that he knew of one pile where he had four guys working twenty minutes to load the trash. Bormann said he felt that customers should pay for the extra service or pay for the service from a different trash hauler. Harline said that the ordinance could be delayed in its start time.

Recycling options: Harline noted that we have studied this with the help of summer intern Danielle Sims and her mom Heidi. Harline stated that the City of Columbia has been easy to work with and there is no charge for processing any of the material except mixed plastic. Harline added that as for mixed plastic, we were taking some to Columbia and some to Ryan Enterprises but it was more expensive to use Ryan Enterprises. Harline said that we may want to continue as is until April when would know if we were going to get a grant for a split-hopper truck. Bormann asked if there were any materials that we couldn't collect or if there was any additional materials being collected and if there were charges. Hoffman noted that no changes had been made to collection, but we could now mix different glass colors together. Harline added that the mixed glass, and the sorted items were processed for free.

Harline asked if the Committee was interested in pursuing a grant for a used split-hopper truck. Harline said this would make recycling collection much easier and could increase participation by making it easier. Bormann and Grenke said that they were in favor in applying for a grant. Harline replied in answer to a question from Bormann that the preliminary grant application was due in November, final application in January and we would know if we received the grant by March in time to let citizens know in the April newsletter. Harline noted that we have an extra bin since we can mix the glass in which we could collect an additional material. Bormann said that he wasn't sure that the City of Columbia would be accepting mixed plastics long with the cost of oil being so low and he wouldn't want to cut Gary Ryan out. Bormann suggested that we continue taking plastic to him until March.

STREETS

Overlay update Harline said that the final price for the overlay was \$162,796.06, with \$13,000 for the overlay between the railroad tracks, which was slightly over the budgeted \$159,421. Harline added that there was plenty of money budgeted in that line item. Hoffman reported that it was the first time

that he knew of that part of Jefferson receiving an overlay. Hoffman stated that he felt that Christensen had done an excellent job in prep work and the overlay. Harline noted that KC Southern did some repairs immediately afterward and left the street less smooth. Grenke said that he had received a request to add south Howard Burton to the list for next year. Harline reported that three different households on Jefferson near the high school were asking about when the City was going to improve that stretch of Jefferson Street.

STORM SEWER

Hoffman reported that Ace Pipe Cleaning was in town and would be doing the storm sewer lining project on East Gano Chance and South Jefferson Street this week.

OTHER

None.

Other

None.

As May Arise

None.

Magley made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Lee and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Committee adjourned 8:15 p.m.