

MINUTES PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MARCH 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mel Schaefer at 5:00 p.m. Members present were Jeff Bertram and Dave Peschong. Advisory members present were Ron Mergen and Chuck DeWolf, Bolton & Menk, Inc. Matt Quade and Keith Hemmesch were absent. Bill Spooner, City Attorney was also present.

Motion was made by Peschong to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2012 Public Works Committee meeting. Seconded by Bertram and unanimously carried.

MEEKER COOPERATIVE POWER LINE

The cooperative is constructing a new underground transmission line to reduce voltage line fluctuation issues, improve reliability, and over all power quality. Members reviewed the route noting the majority is not within the City limits and it will not cross any City property or right of way.

HWY. 55 & COUNTY ROAD 181 IMPROVEMENTS

DeWolf and Mergen have met with MnDOT and MnDOT indicated the project does have some merit to it and funds are available in 2012 and 2014. 2013 funds have been allocated and DeWolf will get a concept plan to MnDOT along with an estimate and bring this back to the next meeting.

WASTEWATER FACILITY

Members reviewed the email from AMPI requesting that the City initiate a \$2,500.00 monthly fee for the dedicated purpose of future sludge removal. DeWolf informed members they are working on the re-scoping design. Part of this will be new SIU's with AMPI and Mastermark. These agreements need to be completed prior to receiving bids. DeWolf also noted they are working on the SIU's along with justification letters identifying the sludge removal costs and surcharge amounts which will be \$8.00 per pound. Draft SIU's will be sent out as soon as they are ready.

IRRIGATION CONTRACTS

Members were given two letters from irrigation members. The letters were reviewed and Mergen informed members that he was in contact with most of the farmers. The farmers would appreciate a meeting where they can voice their opinions and be heard. Some of the concerns voiced from the farmers were:

- We are only guaranteed 4" of water
- We have to take the water in wet years damaging crops
- We should only have to pay for power and maintenance and repair
- We should not have to pay for the City's investment.

Peschong and Schaefer accepted the offer to attend a meeting with the farmers.

CONTRACT WITH JACK HENNEN

The contract for the 80 acres of City land currently farmed by Hennen is due. The City negotiated seeding alfalfa and silage corn with seeding oats or rye so that in the fall if water needs to be applied it can. After a short discussion it was suggested to try the corn option at \$160.00 per acre.

ALLEY VACATION

Bill Spooner presented an updated Access License Agreement and Public Right Of Way Easements. He noted they are still working on the agreements and he thought the closing will be sometime in early April. There was a lengthy discussion on the process and how everything needs to fall into place and the timing for such to happen. Some of the issues include the approach may need to be moved because of an existing sign and the parking layout will encroach the alley by 4 ft. It was suggested that the City should maintain 50' of no parking (on street, on Hwy. 23) on either side of the access.

Motion was made by Peschong to approve the Public Right Of Way Easement and Access License Agreement subject to the modifications to be made by Attorney Spooner and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Bertram and unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Bertram to approve the alley vacation pending the following:

- 1. Signed Easement Agreement and the Access License Agreement**
- 2. The new access installed**
- 3. The house and garage need to be removed**

Seconded by Peschong and unanimously carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.