

MINUTES PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

JULY 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mel Schaefer at 5:00 p.m. Members present were Dave Peschong, Keith Hemmesch, and Matt Quade. Donovan Mayer was absent. Advisory members present were Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; and Chuck DeWolf, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Motion was made by Quade to approve the minutes from the April 14 and May 12, 2014 Public Works Committee meetings. Seconded by Peschong and unanimously carried.

LED STREET LIGHTING/ BUDGET/ CRACK SEALING

It was reported that in the budget staff added a line item for downtown decorative street lighting at 40 years \$450,000.00 or \$11,000 per year. Members noted that it's okay to budget for this item, but the City needs to look into replacing the current fixtures with LED fixtures. More information on the LED lighting will be presented at the next meeting. Other items in the budget that were discussed:

- For the future City Shop staff will increase the amount to the Street CIP and make a transfer when the project starts.
- Street CIP current funds were reviewed.
- Crack Sealing - members were informed that staff spent a week on crack sealing and did not accomplish anything else and the City needs to sub-contract out the crack sealing or revisit the agreement with Paynesville Township. The Township has twice to three times the road miles that the City does.
- The snow and ice and street light budgets were also reviewed.

Motion was made by Hemmesch to approve the budgets and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Peschong and unanimously carried.

IRRIGATION DAMAGE

The damage to Pivot 17 was reported. In the program it was set to stop or reverse at 216 degrees and it jumped over this number and kept walking. Additional safety features were installed and Lindsey Corp. is updating the program.

WATER PLANT REHAB

DeWolf reported that the storage tank is near completion and they are working on the controls and electrical items.

WASTEWATER PLANT

DeWolf reported that most items are complete and the contractor is working on punch list items.

2014 STREET PROJECT

It was noted that the City needs to improve the signage on the detour route. Many motorists are getting lost because they don't know what County Road 85 is. DeWolf will follow up with the County on this matter.

IRRIGATION LAHR

Members reviewed the benefits and disadvantages for the Lahr's request:

Benefits:

1. If they will agree to plant a minimum of 80 acres of alfalfa it would provide the City with additional land to irrigate on in the spring and/or fall.
2. At \$10.00 per acre it is an additional \$1,400.00 income and Lahr will be responsible for all the pivot maintenance and repair.

Disadvantages:

1. The City will have another pivot to operate.
2. The City currently has more than enough row crop land.
3. In a dry year, if the City gives this new pivot; 6" of water over 140 acres is 22.8 million gallons, or approximately 1" per acre.

It comes to the fact that Lahr's will want water at the same time as the rest of the farmers do and that is not what the City needs. Members reviewed the irrigation map and noted that in the future the City may need to take more of the City land out of row crops and put it into cover crops. Members all agreed not to move on the Lahr request.

CONSERVATION WATER RATES

Members reviewed the numbers of residential accounts that will be affected if the conservation rate change is set at 45,000 gallons.

1.	2012	2 nd	19 accounts	average usage	62,100 gallons
2.	2012	3 rd	89 accounts	average usage	83,000 gallons
3.	2013	2 nd	4 accounts	average usage	49,000 gallons
4.	2013	3 rd	91 accounts	average usage	73,000 gallons

Members requested that this information be provided if the City sets the rate change at 75,000 gallons per quarter.

ALLEY ORDINANCE

Members were informed that the City may receive a petition to improve an alley between Washburne Ave. and Koronis Ave. between First St. and Main St.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.