

MINUTES PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 11, 2013

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

Motion was made by Peschong to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2013 Public Works Committee meeting. Seconded by Quade and unanimously carried.

IRRIGATION FIELD NET

The cost for a three year contract renewal was reviewed. The system has been utilized for the past 4 years and saves many hours and mileage on the vehicles. It was noted that the City had asked Automated System for a quote; however, they indicated that they are not familiar with the irrigation technology and it would be much more expensive than Field net. The four month versus a six month proposal was discussed noting the pivots are utilized over a six month period. After short discussion,

Motion was made by Quade to approve a 3 year contract with coverage May – October each year and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Hemmesch and unanimously carried.

IRRIGATION CONTRACTS

Members reviewed the contracts that are due to be renewed for the 2014 cropping season. The land on pivot 3 was discussed noting the City does not see a future need for it and it could be sold; however, the City is making \$231.00 per acre and having the larger parcel benefits the bid. After a short discussion, members all concurred to bid the property out for rent and not for sale.

Also discussed were the parcels rented to Steve Gottwald, Jack Hennen, and Jim Mages. It was suggested to negotiate a contract with these farmers due to these being our main sites for disposing of water. There is a need to work together with them. Members suggested continuing this practice.

WATER SUPPLY PLAN

The Plan was reviewed outlining three main parts:

1. Evaluation
2. Emergency Response
3. Water conservation

It was reported that the first Plan was completed in 1996, updated in 2007 – 2008, and will again be updated in 2016. On the evaluation the Plan reviewed the total water consumption versus capacity and peak demand. In the emergency response section the Committee reviewed what would trigger the City to have watering restrictions.

In the water conservation section it was noted that the City needs to adopt water conservation rates for 2015. Members stated that this would discourage lawn sprinkling. It stated that since the City will be updating the Plan in a couple years staff should not spend a lot of time on it now.

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

2015 PROJECT

A letter from Bolton & Menk on the proposed realignment and reconstruction of Washburne Ave. north of the railroad tracks to Minnie St., Minnie St. to approximately 600' West of Industrial Loop West, and Lake Ave. south of the river was reviewed. The cost for the report would be \$8,900.00. Members discussed the area and scope of the project.

Motion was made by Hemmesch to proceed with the project at the cost of \$8,900.00 for the 2015 project preliminary engineering report and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Quade and unanimously carried.

WATER PLANT REHAB

DeWolf reported on the construction progress, which due to the cold weather is slow.

WASTE WATER RE-SCOPING PROJECT

Members were informed that there are funds remaining from the project and it is being proposed to expand the SCADA system to four of the City's lift stations in town. This would eliminate the need for local phone lines, dialer units in each lift station, reduce the operator rounds, and it will increase the reliability of the alarm systems. After a short discussion,

Motion was made by Hemmesch to approve Change Order No. 1 to expand the SCADA system and recommended such to the City Council. Seconded by Peschong and unanimously carried.

MPCA – FORMER MIDTOWN SERVICE STATION

Members were informed that a meeting has been scheduled with MPCA and the Department of Health in regard to the monitoring wells being at grade. The Council is considering hiring a Consultant.

2014 STREET PROJECT

DeWolf reported that they are proceeding with the design of the project and it will be ready to bid in February.

ALLEY BETWEEN RIVER STREET AND AUGUSTA AVENUE

It was reported that a meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 13, 2013 with AMPI to discuss the property.

ALLEY APPROACH BY NUCARA ONTO BUSINESS HWY. 23

It was reported that Eckerly is working with NuCara on the issue.

ALLEY BETWEEN WASHBURNE AVE. AND KORONIS AVE. - EXIT TO BUSINESS 23

This alley currently has a “no exit” sign on it. There has been a request to remove the no exit sign. Members noted the low volume of traffic in the alley and the reduced traffic volumes on Business 23 since the sign was installed. It was suggested to check with the Police Chief to see if he has any issues.

Motion was made by Peschong to remove the “no exit” sign in the alley and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Quade and unanimously carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.