

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of January 13, 2022

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive at 3:30 PM on January 13, 2022.

Members Present: Councilor James M. Walsh, Chairman; Councilor Alek Dernalowicz; Councilor George C. Tyros; Administrative Assistant Christine Harty

Attendees: Dane E. Arnold, DPW Director; Chris Coughlin, City Engineer; Neil Viner, Senior Civil Engineer; Jonathan Fiore, GIS Coordinator.

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor James M. Walsh called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING

ANNOUNCEMENT – any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the chair forthwith. All documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to Secretary of the Committee, pursuant to the Open Meeting and Public Records Law. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the meetings dated September 9, 2021 & September 21, 2021, as written. Further noted current committee was not acting committee at time of covered meetings however audio recordings were provided, allowing opportunity to review and make motion to accept. Motion made to accept minutes by Councilor George C. Tyros, second by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, all in favor motion carries.

ABATEMENTS WATER/SEWER

81 Century Way: Homeowner, Kara Belmonte present for appeal. Had received a very high-water bill in September. Indicates had returned home from vacation to find a broken toilet. Due to broken flapper water had run for a duration of four days, repair was made immediately. Was hoping for some discount, as leak was unexpected, prior to leak the toilet handle had been replaced. Appears issue arose at some point following the handle repair.

Councilor James Walsh, though leak is not responsibility of City, could consider some type of payment plan. Perhaps divide bill up over payment period or provide credit on account?

Dane, the account is paid in full. Could have allowed a payment plan on unpaid portion but again bill has been paid.

Councilor James Walsh, given fact account is paid in full have no basis to provide an abatement, credit or extension. Councilors resume brief discussion and agree, with full payment having been made must deny appeal at this time.

Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George C. Tyros to deny appeal, all in favor, motion passes.

19 Myrtle Road: Homeowner, Brian McCullin is present for appeal. Had received a very high-water bill in September. Given the one bathroom of the house was under renovation, porta potty on property, and bills are almost always consistent, high bill was surprising. Called immediately to have meter checked. Meter checked out

fine. Later found contractor doing bathroom construction had utilized the outside spicket for cleaning of tools, etc. During that same period concrete walkway was removed and new area of grass planted, contributing to increase in water use outside. Would like to request abatement on sewer portion of bill.

Councilor James Walsh, States increase in water charges due to contractor using spicket as well as planting of grass. Would consider crediting account based on average use of water in prior quarters.

Councilors resume brief discussion and agree abatement of \$285.00 on sewer portion of September bill is fair credit to provide for appeal. Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George C. Tyros to abate sewer charges on September 2021 billing by \$285.00.

10 Robillard Street: Homeowner, Denise Santiago, contacted by phone to attend meeting for appeal. Was unable to attend today's meeting. Requested to be placed on next scheduled meeting for opportunity to appeal.

Councilors resume brief discussion, agree to allow owner of 10 Robillard opportunity to attend next scheduled meeting for appeal of water/sewer bill. Motion made by Councilor George C. Tyros, second by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz to extend appeal opportunity to next scheduled meeting.

Brief introduction of employees, Neil Viner, and Jonathan Fiore to Public Service Committee.

POLE PETITION

A petition by National Grid to install 1 Single Owned Pole on Church Street beginning at a point approximately 255' feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Marquette Street and Church Street and continuing approximately 20 feet in a north direction. Install 40'C2, Pole 9 to provide power to 116 Church Street

Committee has invited National Grid employee to attend meeting and discuss petition of pole. Location of pole petition is discussed, details of pole provided by employee. Motion made to approve pole petition. Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Dane Arnold: Hands out couple pieces of information. First provides attendees a paving list. Provides Committee brief indication of how much money is set aside for paving. States the list provided is broken down as follows: first, City streets are rated based on conditions and second, list is then prioritized based on main routes, such as main roads to hospitals, schools, etc.

Councilor James Walsh, Mayor had indicated a plan to put together a priority list for sidewalks? Dane, yes! when the snow clears the plan is to go out and put sidewalk list together. Then to cross reference the street list and sidewalk list to determine final paving list with conditions and prioritizing combined.

Councilor James Walsh, many are walking these days, in addition a new school is coming.

Dane, would like to offer to all members the opportunity to go out together or individually to tour the water and wastewater facilities.

Currently we are 70-80% done with phase II of the water project. Main lines are in, contractor will be back out come March/April to complete service connections and tie in mains not completed prior to winter. There is approximately 800 thousand dollars remaining of this 11-million-dollar project to use for paving of the streets within the water project. We will need to go in front of Council to request additional funds to pave streets added onto project in the change order portion. Change order allowed for additional water lines needing replacement but not the funds to pave those streets added.

All water meters within the City are needing to be replaced. They were last replaced between 1999 and 2002. This will cost approximately a million and a half to two million to complete.

We just completed painting the exterior of the elevated storage tank on Route 140. The interior of the tank, built in or around 1988, is wearing down and in need of repair. We are currently working on a plan to drain it down, keep system pressurized, and get in it to clean and coat.

On Reservoir Hill we have (2) 2-million-gallon concrete tanks that have been recoated. Beside them is a pumpstation which pumps from those concrete tanks to the elevated storage tank on 140. The pumpstation is approximately 30 years old, needs to be rehabbed, nearing end of its useful life. One-to-two-million-dollar project.

Over the summer we had a water main break with a series of compounding unfortunate events that went wrong. There is a transmission line running from Crystal Lake to James Street feeding the elevated storage tank. There are sections of this line dated from the 1880's and 1970's. Looking to replace the old transmission line, in design phase. One and half million-dollar project.

Possibility of an infrastructure grant or loan coming soon. We are currently in design phase now of replacing 30,000 feet of water mains should this infrastructure money come.

At Wastewater Treatment Facility had taken out 14-million-dollar loan in 2014, upgraded headworks, and just recently finished the dewatering part of the project. Loan is paid, closed, came in under budget at around 11 million. Will now need to do some concrete work on the tanks. They are from the 1980's, will need to be drained, recoated and all metal mechanisms replaced. Approximately a 5-million-dollar project.

Lastly, regarding the sludge landfill, there is approximately 2-4 years left of space. Completed studies regarding most cost effective, hauling, etc. Have found the most cost-effective option is to expand. Looking to be about 2024 when constructing would begin and would buy the City another approximate 17 years for storage of our sludge.

Regarding tip list projects, we currently have the following: Pearson Boulevard, uptown rotary, section of 140 City owned, and a pedestrian bridge at the rail trail.

Will be submitting the DPW budget to the Mayor by the end of the month. This will include current DPW needs. One need is a new salt shed. The current shed was built in early to late 90's and in bad shape, falling. Would like to get a large canvas dome shaped salt shed and place it across the street from DPW building utilizing property we own there.

Our second need is to build a sign room. About 12-15 years ago we started a sign dept. This department has grown significantly, creating signs for various events, City Depts., streets, etc.

Councilor James Walsh, will this new salt shed require special permitting?

Chris Coughlin, yes, will have to go through DEP with their notice of intent process with regards to stormwater and site prospective. However, we will not require a building permit for the shed.

Chris Coughlin: Would like to add one more project. Recently received a grant from the state to fund the design of the Wayside Dam. This is currently underway. Hopefully in 18 months will be applying for the same grant for the construction of this project.

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: Will new meters be read by employees from vehicles and will monthly bills be a possibility?

Dane, yes, readings will be taken from vehicles via radio reader and the hope is to move forward

with monthly billing. In addition, the new meters have leak detectors and can monitor for other issues such as tampering, etc. In time they may pay for themselves regarding their detection abilities.

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM COUNCILOR'S

Councilor James Walsh: Would like to plan for Committee to meet more regularly. Allowing Councilors and Public to follow ongoing projects and have updates from within the Departments.

Councilor George C. Tyros: No requests.

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: Would like to acknowledge the DPW on their hard work during the snow.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George C. Tyros to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 pm. Roll Call vote: Councilor Alek Dernalowicz yes, Councilor George C. Tyros yes, Councilor James Walsh yes. Motion passes.

Next meeting scheduled as needed.

All documents submitted at this meeting are stored in the office of the DPW 50 Manca Drive for any review.

Respectfully submitted:
Christine M. Harty, Administrative Assistant