

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2011

#1 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Puhr called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call was answered by Chairman Mike Puhr, Vice Chairman Steve Foster, Aldermen Jon Cooper, Sharon McMahan, and Rick Strebing. Absent were Aldermen Dale Brandenburg and Rickey Williams. A quorum was present. Alderman Williams arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Others Present included Mayor Scott Eisenhauer, Alderman Jerry Askren, City Clerk Janet Myers, City Engineer David Schnelle, Public Transportation Director Richard Brazda, Public Works Director Doug Ahrens, 7 audience members, and 2 news media.

#2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Puhr presented Minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2011. Alderman McMahan moved for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman J.Cooper. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Puhr presented the agenda. There being no changes, Alderman Strebing moved for approval, seconded by Alderman McMahan. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#4 AUDIENCE COMMENTS – None

#5 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Puhr thanked the Public Works Department for the great job on snow removal during the snow and ice storm last week and stated he's heard nothing but positive comments from citizens.

#6 PAYROLL

Chairman Puhr presented Payroll for January 28, 2011, of \$512,645.39 and for February 4, 2011, of \$74,441.57. Alderman J.Cooper moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Strebing. There being no questions, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen McMahan, Strebing, J.Cooper, Foster, Puhr

Nays: None

Absent: Aldermen Williams, Brandenburg

Motion carried 5 to 0 with 2 absent.

#7 VOUCHERS PAYABLE

Chairman Puhr presented the Schedule of Vouchers Payable for February 1, 2011, of \$132,875.45 and for February 8, 2011, of \$495,242.95. Alderman J.Cooper moved for approval, seconded by Vice Chairman Foster. There being no questions, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Strebing, J.Cooper, Foster, McMahan, Puhr

Nays: None

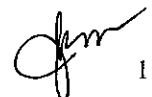
Absent: Aldermen Williams, Brandenburg

Motion carried 5 to 0 with 2 absent.

#8 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Dick Brazda, Director

A-1) Monthly Recap for January 2011

The Summary and Graph of Ridership by Month, a Table of Ridership by Route, Summaries of Total Revenue, Farebox and Ticket Revenue and Total Revenues for FY 2011, and a Summary of ADA Rides provided by CRIS were presented with no comments or questions.



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A) Items of Information

Director Brazda reported that video cameras were being installed in the buses and should be completed soon. He spoke of one incident with a bus that had already been equipped with a camera in which a truck clipped the mirror. With the use of the camera, staff was able to determine who was at fault and was able to receive payment for the damages.

[Alderman Williams arrived at 6:05 p.m. and took his seat at the dais.]

#9 PUBLIC WORKS – Doug Ahrens, Director

A) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution approving additional work on the Municipal Building Parking Lot Improvement Project by Big O Services in the amount of \$428,256.00, to come from the 2009 Bond Issue, and authorizing an invoice of \$7,478.35 to Vermilion County as reimbursement for work performed for the Courthouse Annex. Alderman Strebing moved for approval, seconded by Alderman McMahon. City Engineer Schnelle stated additional pavement over the vault areas was found when excavating the parking lot that needed to be removed; additional sidewalk work was completed to bring the sidewalks in front of City Hall to ADA compliance since the prior work done by the State was not in compliance; and additional pavement work was completed for the County Annex parking area. Director Ahrens also stated additional drainage work along the north façade of the Courthouse Annex, which was tied into the City's system, was completed and will be reimbursed by the County. There being no questions, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Williams, J.Cooper, Foster, McMahon, Strebing, Puhr

Nays: None

Absent: Alderman Brandenburg

Motion carried 6 to 0 with 1 absent.

B) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution approving a Phase II Engineering Services Agreement for the Fairchild Subway Improvement Project with Alfred Benesch & Company in the amount of \$1,070,626.22, to come from the 2009 Bond Issue. Alderman Strebing moved for approval, seconded by Alderman J.Cooper. City Engineer Schnelle stated that through negotiations and the City being able to perform all of the structural steel shop drawing review in-house, the original estimated project amount of \$1.5 million is now down to a little over \$1 million. The final Public Hearing on Phase I with formal presentations will be on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Public Works Facility on Voorhees Street. With Phase I nearing completion, it is time to proceed with Phase II, which will produce the plans and specifications for construction and begin the bid process. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2012. Alderman Williams questioned what plan option is being used and Engineer Schnelle stated the option that is preferred through public comments and is the least expensive is for an overpass structure, with the center being aligned with the existing north wall, that would include a pedestrian walkway. Vice Chairman Foster questioned if this was the final dollar amount for engineering and Engineer Schnelle stated that there could be some additional costs due to unforeseen issues and that Phase II includes construction engineering and construction costs. The engineering costs are coming from the 2009 Bond Issue, along with any funding that the Illinois Commerce Commission decides to allocate, and the construction costs will come from the grant funding. Vice Chairman Foster commended staff for the work done so far in obtaining funding and getting the project going. City Engineer Schnelle commended the Council in allowing specialty consultant firms to work on the project that are experienced with working with railroads and similar projects, which has expedited the process. Alderman Askren commented on the amount being spent on engineering alone and City Engineer stated that engineering costs are typically 10% of the total project. Alderman Askren also questioned the need for acquisition of property for this project. City Engineer Schnelle reported that negotiations are in process with two business and two residential properties that will be affected by this project. The City hired Illinois Department of Transportation Certified appraisers for the two business properties and those businesses can also choose another certified appraiser of their choice for another opinion. There being no further discussion, the roll call vote being:



Ayes: Aldermen J.Cooper, Foster, McMahon, Strebing, Williams, Puhr

Nays: None

Absent: Alderman Brandenburg

Motion carried 6 to 0 with 1 absent.

C) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution authorizing a request to the Illinois Department of Transportation for an annual permit allowing temporary closure of State right-of-way for various community events through December 31, 2011. Vice Chairman Foster moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Strebing. Director Ahrens stated that this process was initiated for the Wall Dogs Event last year and it has been determined to be in the best interest to proceed with the annual permit process for any future events in the City. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen J.Cooper, Foster, McMahon, Strebing, Williams, Puhr

Nays: None

Absent: Alderman Brandenburg

Motion carried 6 to 0 with 1 absent.

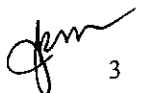
D-1) H & L Landfill Update

City Engineer Schnelle stated there was nothing to report. He also stated there has been no word from IEPA (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency) on the request made over a year ago to halt monthly reporting to the Committee. Follow up will be made this week.

D) Items of Information

- Permission has been received from Norfolk Southern Railway regarding the City's request to put up panels on the structure over Fairchild Street to improve the appearance. Members of the community are being invited to submit suggested designs for the panel by contacting Steve Lane.
- Due to a new law regarding safety of swimming pools, staff is looking at alternative designs for the drainage system at Garfield Pool to meet compliance. Formal bid proposals will be solicited even though the amount is anticipated to be below the bid threshold. The Illinois Department of Public Health has issued a permit for the drawings, which required the use of a Structural Engineer and a Professional Engineer, both of which were done in-house.
- Director Ahrens thanked everyone for the positive feedback on the work by the Public Works staff during the recent snow events. Salt supply is still in good shape due to use various conservation methods, as is the budget for materials. However, overtime budget could be an issue depending on future activity. The Council was thanked for its support of purchasing additional snow equipment that can be utilized with other trucks, making snow removal possible for all City roadways at a much quicker rate.
- Vice Chairman Foster reported an issue with a private snow removal contractor that was used in the Devonshire area that caused some issues. Director Ahrens stated staff continues to work on ways to better educate private contractors on such activities.
- Several proposals have been received regarding future operation of the Harrison Park Golf Course. To date, 33 documents with proposals and/or resumes have been received, ranging from golf management companies to individual golf professionals. After staff has reviewed each and/or interviewed prospective candidates, a recommendation should be submitted to Committee in March.
- Alderman Askren questioned the operation of the Solid Waste staff when collection is halted, as was done when the landfill closed on Wednesday due to the snow/ice storm, and why two to three employees are needed for each snow plow or solid waste vehicle. Director Ahrens stated that all Public Works employees are cross-trained that allows for reassignment of duties when necessary. Also, during cross-training activity, it is necessary for the trainer and trainee to be in one truck, which is what was happening during this past event. The only time three employees are used in one truck would be during special household waste collections.

#10 CLOSED SESSION was not needed.



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#11 COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS - None

#12 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. by acclamation after a motion by Alderman Williams and a seconded by Alderman J.Cooper.

Approved: 03/08/11
Posted Publicly: 03/09/11



Janet K. Myers, City Clerk