

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2015

#1 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Puhr called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was answered by Chairman Mike Puhr, Vice Chairman Jon Cooper, Aldermen R.J. Davis, Mike O'Kane, and Rick Strebing. Aldermen Rickey Williams, Jr. was absent with 1 vacancy from Ward 7. A quorum was present. Chairman Puhr announced he was notified that Alderman Williams would be absent and was excused.

Others in attendance included City Clerk Lisa Monson, City Comptroller Gayle Lewis, Engineering & Urban Services Director David Schnelle, Public Transportation Director Lisa Beith, Public Works Director Doug Ahrens, 2 audience members, and 2 news media.

#2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Puhr presented Minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2015. Alderman Davis moved for approval as presented, seconded by Vice Chairman 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 as presented, seconded by Vice Chairman Cooper. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#4 AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Cyril Ostiguy of Danville spoke concern of many alleyways in poor condition and asked if the City has a plan to keep up with the alleyways that will probably never be vacated. The alley behind Royal Donut on North Vermilion Street has had a very large hole without patch for two years.

Chairman Puhr asked Director Ahrens to comment on Mr. Ostiguy's concerns. Director Ahrens stated the alley behind Royal Donut is used for business access and the ordinance requires alleys that are used for business access be paved and maintained by the businesses that use and access those alleys. The City will assist with patch, but if the alleys become at a point where they need to be surfaced, it really is the responsibility of the business owners. Danville Polyclinic paved their alleys that serve the Polyclinic. There is no funding or program to re-asphalt alleys. Exceptions that have been made due to the pedestrian loads are the immediate alleys adjacent to Vermilion Street. The City has finished both sides of Vermilion Street on the inner alleys, but there are no plans to expand on that. Residents are not responsible for alleyways behind their residence. Director Schnelle stated the City has seal coated some alleys. The City has such precious resources as it comes to improving and maintaining our streets and sidewalks we would be diverting those resources to maintain alleys. We have tried some alternative approaches when we have done sewer projects and have seal coated some of the alleys to try to decrease the frequency at which Public Works has to come in and grade them. The problem is they last three years then need grading again so we really no longer do that as part of our sewer project because of the issues there, but we try to cost share.

#5 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - None

#6 PAYROLL

Chairman Puhr presented Payroll for February 6, 2015 of \$508,893.72. Vice Chairman Cooper moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman O'Kane. There being no questions, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Cooper, Davis, O'Kane, Strebing, Puhr

Nays: None

#10 PUBLIC WORKS – Doug Ahrens, Director

#10-A) Items of Information

- The property the City has acquired along riverfront on West Main Street has been vacated with the exception of one which is anticipated to be vacated the end of February. Staff has begun preparing the properties for demolition. The City is planning to perform the work for the large building with the billboard displays with hopes there are no issues with asbestos. The Boggess property has been vacated since the end of November, the Mielke property will be vacated the end of the month and the Danville Metal and Canvas building is empty. Chairman Puhr asked how much billboard revenue is collected and Director Ahrens stated the one billboard was cancelled due to the diminished visibility from the trees on the curb. The City was receiving \$250.00 per month for that one and the revenue for the other one is around \$650.00 per month, but would need to confirm that amount. Director Ahrens we will be speaking with the lease agent as well as the company that is currently leasing the billboard to give them plenty of notice.
- Alderman Davis asked if the Public Works Operations staff has been able to stay on top of the potholes and Director Ahrens responded there is an on-going list of any calls or reports then the Durapatch is run as long as the temperature is above freezing and staff tries their best to stay on top of them. Alderman Davis asked about potholes in alleys and Director Ahrens stated alleys are on a complaint basis.
- Alderman Strebing asked if there is a problem with some of the trucks in the garbage fleet and Director Ahrens stated there has been a problem with moisture in the brake lines so there have been a couple of different trucks out for use. Also, a small percentage of addresses still have the non-automated trucks as there might not be room for the automated trucks and the special collections truck is non-automated as well.

#11 ENGINEERING & URBAN SERVICES – David Schnelle, Director

#11-A Items of Information

#11-A-1) H & L Landfill Update – Director Schnelle stated he was hoping to get movement by the end of December, but most branches in State government are at a standstill. He has contacted attorneys recently and still has not heard back from the IEPA to respond to the request that was sent in a formal letter. The concern is the department may become underfunded at some point in the future so he is hoping to get some movement soon.

#11-A-2) NPDES Update - There was a force main break at the Northwest Pump Station which was reported at the February 3 City Council meeting.

#11-A-3) Project Updates

South Griffin Street Bridge Project – The tree clearing bid opening will be February 12 so there will need to be a Special Public Works Committee meeting before the City Council meeting on February 17 to award the project or have the item placed directly on the City Council agenda. Engineering staff is finalizing the right-of-way acquisitions for the project and Director Schnelle hopes to have those completed to be included in the agenda for the special Public Works meeting as well. He stated contact has been made with the three property owners, but paperwork has not been received back from them yet. He would like to proceed with the passage of the ordinance which would allow the City to go ahead and purchase the right-of-way through the terms given in the ordinance which have also been offered to the property owners. This would help with the timing of the project to get it approved ahead of time and then get the papers signed from the property owners. The downside to that is if something were to happen where we were not able to negotiate with the property owners, then we might have to bring back a parcel or two for different consideration. He would like to get this on the IDOT April letting. The consensus from the Committee would be to have a special meeting. Chairman Puhr stated a special meeting would take place at 5:45 p.m. February 17 prior to the Council meeting.

#11-A. Other Items of Information