

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2015

#1 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Puhr called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 6:07 p.m.

Roll Call was answered by Chairman Mike Puhr, Vice Chairman Jon Cooper, Aldermen Mike O'Kane, and Rick Strebing. Aldermen R.J. Davis and Rickey Williams, Jr. were absent with 1 vacancy from Ward 7. A quorum was present. Alderman Rickey Williams, Jr. arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Others in attendance included Mayor Scott Eisenhauer, Alderman Tom Stone, City Clerk Lisa Monson, City Comptroller Gayle Lewis, Corporation Counsel David Wesner, Engineering & Urban Services Director David Schnelle, Planning & Urban Services Manager Christopher Milliken, Public Transportation Director Lisa Beith, Public Works Director Doug Ahrens, 3 audience members, and 2 news media.

#2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Puhr presented Minutes of the regular meeting of February 10, 2015. Vice Chairman Cooper moved for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Strebing. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Puhr presented the agenda amending Item 10 to include Discussion of Resolution to Establish Rates for Solid Waste Dumping Fees. There being no further changes, Alderman Strebing moved for approval as amended, 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 the poor condition of the alleyways and feels the City should get on the property owners to repair alleyways behind their businesses if it is their responsibility.
- Keith Gravat of Danville spoke concern of being told he could not take photographs at the Ambuc's Home and Living Expo that took place at the David S. Palmer Arena last weekend and asked for a legal opinion from the City Attorney as there were no signs posted stating that cameras were not allowed.

#5 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Puhr commended the Public Works Operations Division for a great job with snow removal during the most recent snow event.

#6 PAYROLL

Chairman Puhr presented Payroll for March 6, 2015 of \$522,757.23. Alderman Strebing moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Vice Chairman Cooper. There being no questions, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Aldermen Davis, Williams

Motion carried 4 to 0 with 2 absent and 1 vacancy in Ward 7.

#7 VOUCHERS PAYABLE

Chairman Puhr presented the Schedule of Vouchers Payable for regular run of March 10, 2015, of \$192,338.41. 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 Strebing, Cooper, O'Kane, Puhr
Nays: None
Absent: Aldermen Davis, Williams
Motion carried 4 to 0 with 2 absent and 1 vacancy in Ward 7.

[Alderman Williams arrived at 6:15 p.m. during discussion of the next item and took his seat at the dais.]

#8 LEGAL – Dave Wesner, Corporation Counsel

#8-A. Items of Information

#8-A-1) Discussion of Alley Vacation – Corporation Counsel Wesner stated as part of the Bungee/REG project there were partial pieces of alleys identified that were not vacated so an ordinance is being drafted to approve the vacation of the small pieces of alleyway and waiving the ordinance requirements due to there being no neighbors to notify. The consensus from the Committee was to place the items on the March 17 Special Public Services Committee agenda.

#8-A. Other Item of Information

Corporation Counsel Wesner addressed audience member Mr. Gravat's concern by stating the David S. Palmer Arena is a separate entity from the City, but they are a public agency and in terms of the ideas of cameras and taking photographs there are several different scenarios we can think of idea of whether or not you can take them at all or if you do have it with you under scenarios where you may be asked to stop taking pictures while you are there or it's okay because it is an open event. Obviously the first thing he mentioned was there was no notification that he can't bring a camera to the arena, well generally speaking that is probably not a problem, but I will suggest to you depending on the nature of the event whether there is notification or not the arena personnel telling someone they can't take pictures during the event it is probably because the people putting the event on are doing their own and they don't want individuals from the outside taking their own pictures for whatever their purpose may be. Secondly, if that is not the case, then if the event is somewhat open in general there may be circumstances where the arena staff may feel it is inappropriate to be taking pictures.

#9 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Lisa Beith, Director

#9-A-1) The Monthly Recap for February 2015, included Ridership Reports, Monthly Revenue Record, and Ridership History. The February fixed route ridership increased 6.1% from last year with February ridership of 47,856. The January total ADA ridership was 899 rides. The February ADA ridership report will be given next month. The total revenue for the month of February was \$30,703.95 which includes Farebox revenue at \$20,214.25; Ticket Sales at \$8,863.00, and Advertising at \$1,137.50.

#9-A) Items of Information

- Waiting on IDOT approval to purchase two 35' Gillig buses through a Lafayette, Indiana contract and also waiting on IDOT to approve bus transfer zone project.
- DMT conducted a successful Job Fair on Saturday, March 7 at the Public Transportation Facility and received 14 eligible applicants with plans for seven of those applicants to be interviewed.
- A mechanic and part time dispatcher started this week.
- Director Beith announced Robert McNeil will be the new Operations Supervisor beginning March 11.

#10 PUBLIC WORKS – Doug Ahrens, Director

#10-A) Items of Information

- Discussion of resolution authorizing an agreement with Republic Services/Brickyard Landfill for dumping fees. Director Ahrens passed out the draft resolution to establish dumping fees and rates for a three year period commencing on May 1, 2015 and terminating April 30, 2018 to Republic Services/Brickyard Landfill. He stated the current rate for MSW (Municipal Solid

Waste) is \$52.50 per ton which would increase to \$56.00 per ton in year two and \$57.50 per ton in year three, C & D (Construction & Demolition Debris) is \$41.40 per ton, which would increase to \$45.00 per ton in year two and \$46.50 per ton in year three, and the Street Sweepings current rate is \$20.25 per ton, which would increase to \$24.00 per ton in year two and \$25.50 per ton in year three. For the first time in quite some time the increases are well below what they had been previously. The last two agreements which covered about a six-seven year period the increases were on average 7-8% annually. The MSW increases reflect about a 3.1% per year average increase for a total of 9.3% over the total three years. The demo debris is a little less than 12% over that three year period so a little less than 4% per year average increase. The street sweepings still remain a high percentage at 24% and they have been increasing more significantly in prior years, but very little street sweepings are taken anymore. Generally speaking, the City takes about 11,000 to 12,000 tons of waste collection a year and we are currently at just under 6,000 tons for the fiscal year. Director Ahrens asked if the resolution could be placed on the City Council agenda next week for approval. The consensus from the Committee was to place the resolution directly on the Council agenda next week.

- Director Ahrens addressed audience member Mr. Ostiguy's concern regarding alleyway maintenance by advising that is not something that we have addressed or enforced in recent years so that is a discussion we can have internally. We have communicated that to residents or the business owners as we receive calls and as indicated in the last meeting we try to help out with patch when we are in the neighborhood recognizing community and other members still do utilize those alleys. We will talk about internally and develop an approach such as educating those businesses that have recently developed.

#11 ENGINEERING & URBAN SERVICES – David Schnelle, Director

#11-A) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution amending CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Five-Year Consolidated Plan, for May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2020. Vice Chairman Cooper moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman O'Kane. Manager Milliken stated the proposed plan is different from previous years as it was prepared by different staff but also the requirements were changed as HUD required the plan to be done within their system so instead of building our own narrative we basically had to answer questions and go question by question as to what HUD was expecting the plan to contain. The allocation for our next annual action plan went up \$12,000.00 so that was good news. The narrative that was built into the plan included a shift in focus as we are trying to open it up to some availability of funds for a community wide benefit such as the corridor improvements and neighborhood redevelopment project, where in the past the focus was on individual neighborhood benefit type projects. Most of the activities that are in the current year have already carried forward to the next annual action plan year to some capacity so there is a blight removal component as far as demolition program in house, there is some money for accessibility modifications for those requiring ramps and so forth in their house, and there is a rehabilitation program for housing in the south side of Vermilion Heights neighborhood area. We are currently working on the north side of that area this year. There is a small fund for emergency home repairs through the neighborhood impact program. The draft has been out for review for a few weeks now and assuming this will be approved by the Council next week the requirement of approval of 45 days in advance of the beginning of the next fiscal year will be met. Alderman Strebing stated this is the second year you have been in the Heights; not the third year as stated in the newspaper. He also stated English Arms should be family as only 2-3 elderly people live there now. He questioned if low income families as listed on page 130 includes special needs and Manager Milliken responded that would be for neighborhood impact program which was the emergency home repair program that would serve approximately four low income families. Alderman Strebing suggested that should be more descriptive in the plan. Manager Milliken stated they all have to be income qualified and they all have to be within certain range and HUD sets those ranges up. Alderman Strebing questioned if bids will be taken from new vendors for construction and Director Schnelle responded the projects will be competitively bid. Alderman Strebing voiced concern that he has received contractor complaints from homeowners who were part of the program in the Vermilion Heights area and stated the homeowners

signed off on the completed project. Director Schnelle stated the EUS Division will be taking a look at the contracts to try to structure those to be more similar to the infrastructure projects to be able to tighten up the controls and protection of the homeowner. In addition to that one of the advantages is we now have the building inspection staff able to assist with the inspections of the improvements. Alderman Strebing asked if CDBG will be paying for their time and Director Schnelle responded that a portion of their salaries will come out of CDBG fund and it is in the administrative portion of the plan. Alderman Strebing voiced concern of the city-wide plan. Director Schnelle responded the approach of the city-wide plan is broadening the areas we can do targeted work on to do exactly what you are talking about and doing an emphasis of combination of resources. Mayor Eisenhauer stated some of our fear is based on the regulations required for someone to participate in the NIP program if we were to commit to a particular neighborhood for a certain period of time and then we find out midway thru that period people are not able to qualify because their home is not insured or there is a lien against their property whatever a number of issues may be, we would be stuck in that particular neighborhood and we are not able to utilize those funds to help anyone. This also gives us the ability to then go out and identify another neighborhood where that might be appropriate to utilize. That is why we went with more city wide language versus specific neighborhoods for the five year annual action plan. Alderman Williams stated he hopes we still plan to target some specific areas, but he is also glad we have flexibility. Director Ahrens stated to follow up on that from the code enforcement perspective that is one of the reasons we are updating the structural conditions survey throughout the community then the department would have that information to reflect overall how a neighborhood is scoring. Director Schnelle stated we want to look at revamping on how some of these funds are administered for the individual property owners improvements so we can develop some criteria of how much we want to invest and possibly look at participation guidelines depending upon how much money is invested in a property so that the City Council has a greater comfort that this is an investment in the neighborhood by the property owner and the City. Alderman Strebing stated some of these people can't afford it that is why you are going into to do it you are trying to save the neighborhoods by doing it the way they were doing it before. Alderman Williams voiced his appreciation that there are now uniform applications. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Williams, Cooper, O'Kane, Puhr

Nays: Alderman Strebing

Absent: Alderman Davis

Motion passed 4 to 1 with 1 absent and 1 vacancy in Ward 7.

#11-B) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution adopting Citizen Participation Plan for Community Development Programs Funded by HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development). Vice Chairman Cooper moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Williams. Manager Milliken stated in the past there was a spot in the consolidated plan where the participation plan was not included so this would be adopting a plan which is required by HUD when funding community development programs. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Cooper, O'Kane, Williams, Puhr

Nays: Alderman Strebing

Absent: Alderman Davis

Motion passed 4 to 1 with 1 absent and 1 vacancy in Ward 7.

#11-C) Chairman Puhr presented an ordinance authorizing a Vacation of East-West Alleyway between 1205 and 1207 North Bowman Avenue for Shane Watson and Melinda Rosas. Alderman Strebing moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Vice Chairman Cooper. Chairman Puhr asked for public comments on the alley vacation. There being none, Chairman Puhr asked for committee comments. There were also no comments from the Committee. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Alderman Davis

Motion passed 5 to 0 with 1 absent and 1 vacancy in Ward 7.

#11-D Items of Information

#11-D-1) H & L Landfill Update – Director Schnelle stated good news has been received from the project engineer and consultant that the City has received permission from the EPA to shutdown the H & L Landfill pumping system for a six month trial period. There are not a lot of stipulations on the shut down process, but a shut down plan will be submitted to the EPA for their approval. The City will still have to monitor the site and this could save the City about a half million dollars in future upgrades to the landfill.

#11-D-2) NPDES Update - nothing to report

#11-D-3) Project Updates – nothing to report

#11-D. Other Items of Information

Director Schnelle asked Manager Milliken to report on a phone conference that took place today. Manager Milliken stated as we transitioned with the CDBG program we reached out to our program manager by having a meeting with them and their supervisor to discuss the direction of our program and the consolidated plan process and to cover some issues that took place in the past and to also get a better understanding of what they're looking for and for us a better understanding of what we need to be doing going forward. Director Schnelle added that some of the things that came out of this were clarifications on procedures and as we get to know this program a little bit better, we also need to do some updating as to how we have been handling the CDBG program. He also stated he would like for the program to be more in accordance with City policies and to make sure all of the current regulations are up to date and we are also finding out that we have more flexibility with this program to help implement some of the improvement projects in the distressed areas we have been speaking about recently.

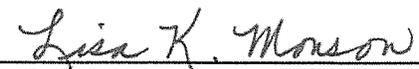
#12 CLOSED SESSION – None

#13 COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Alderman Strebing stated there was a problem with HUD stating another newspaper posting was necessary for the 65 unit Mercy Housing project on VA property, but after several phone calls it was determined another posting was not necessary and the project is a "go".
- Alderman Williams asked for an update on the work being performed on the City Hall foyer stairwell wall. Director Ahrens reported staff has been exploring the scope of the problem to determine if it is just the superficial layer on top and trying to identify a product that can be applied and will handle the extreme temperatures in the stairwell area due to the expansive glass.

#14 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. by acclamation after a motion by Alderman Strebing and a second by Vice Chairman Cooper.



Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk

Approved: 04/14/15
Posted Publicly: 04/15/15

