

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2012

**#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 Bill Gilbert, Aldermen Bill Black, Jon Cooper, Mike O'Kane, Rick Strebing, and Rickey Williams, Jr. A quorum was present.

Others in attendance included Mayor Scott Eisenhauer, Aldermen Kevin Davis and Tom Stone, City Clerk Janet Myers, City Comptroller Gayle Lewis, City Engineer David Schnelle, Corporation Counsel David Wesner, Public Transportation Director Richard Brazda, Public Works Director Doug Ahrens, Public Works Service & Operations Manager Bob Scott, Public Works Engineers Sam Cole and Jon Manko, Solid Waste and Fleet Maintenance Superintendent Carl Carpenter, Special Services Superintendent Steve Lane, 11 audience members, and 3 news media.

**#2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Puhr presented Minutes of the regular meeting of December 13, 2011. Alderman Strebing moved for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Black. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

**#3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Puhr presented the agenda. Vice Chairman B. Gilbert moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Williams. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

**#4 AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

- Jerry Hawker of Payne Street and representing the Danville Area Landlord's Association spoke support of various changes to the Solid Waste Collection ordinance, but suggested that at least one free major cleanup collection be maintained and voiced opposition to removing funding from the fee that currently is used to help finance demolitions, to paying for yard waste collection that isn't used by landlords, and to any increase in fees over the next five years. However, he voiced support, personally, of a small increase each year to provide solid waste collection services.
- Cyril Ostiguy of Orchard Street voiced concern of more regulations for businesses, such as for tow trucks as is being discussed, as it will only cost the City more than what it is taking in.
- Jan Ostiguy of Orchard Street questioned the need for additional repairs to the new driveway at the Fire Station on North Vermilion Street.
- Ed Strahl of North Vermilion Street voiced opposition to the increase if Solid Waste fees; questioned the savings of the one-man trucks if fees are needing to be increased as well as the need for additional Police Officers; and speculated that the reason for Danville's loss in population was because of high taxes.
- Reggie Romine of Highland Shore Drive voiced opposition to an increase in the Solid Waste fees and inclusion of any amount for demolitions and questioned the need for processing yard waste at all.

**#5 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Puhr advised of an article in the most recent IML Legislative Update regarding the new law that requires all elected officials to take the Open Meetings Act on-line test. Mayor Eisenhauer reported that training sessions are being planned to assist in taking the test as a group.

**#6 PAYROLL**

Chairman Puhr presented Payroll for December 22, 2011, of \$62,338.12. Vice Chairman B. Gilbert moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Strebing. There

being no questions, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen B.Gilbert, O'Kane, Strebing, Williams, Black, J.Cooper, Puhr

Nays: None

Motion carried 7 to 0.

#### #7 VOUCHERS PAYABLE

Chairman Puhr presented the Schedule of Vouchers Payable for January 10, 2012, of \$148,181.04.

Alderman J.Cooper moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Vice Chairman B.Gilbert. Staff addressed questions of Alderman Black regarding various vouchers, as follows:

- Payment to Watson General Tire was for mounting/dismounting and repairs of tires for Mass Transit buses and for new tires for the Police Division. Comptroller Lewis will provide information as to what the \$20,000.00 payment last month was for.
- Boulevard lights are all street lights the City maintains, including the downtown area and along Vermilion Street to Fairchild Street, Fairchild Street to Gilbert Street, Gilbert Street South to the City limits, and along Main Street from Buchanan to the West into the Heights. All other lights are owned and maintained by AmerenIP. A map of such lighting can be viewed on the City's website. Alderman Black requested information that would provide the number of lights maintained by the City, what is spent on maintenance, and what the City pays to Ameren for the maintenance and use.
- A water heater was replaced at the new Public Works facility on Voorhees Street.
- Purchase of additional snowfall lights downtown and lights at Temple Plaza were to replace some that were stolen and funding came partly from donations of downtown businesses. Alderman Black requested a report showing revenues and expenses.
- A payment of \$12,912.51 to Brickyard Disposal was for dumping fees for the demolition of the old National Liquors Store.
- Payment to Comcast Cable was for Internet services at Harrison Park (*not PSB as was stated during meeting*).

Alderman Black also suggested again that the City use the services of the new UPS Store on North Vermilion in addition to Express Packaging Service. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen O'Kane, Strebing, J.Cooper, B.Gilbert, Puhr

Nays: Aldermen Williams, Black

Motion carried 5 to 2.

#### #8 LEGAL – Dave Wesner, Corporation Counsel

#8-A) Chairman Puhr presented an ordinance authorizing the acquisition of property located at 3591 North Vermilion Street through donation by Wallis State Bank, to be used for revitalization and future development. Alderman Strebing moved for approval, seconded by Vice Chairman B.Gilbert. To address questions, Corporation Counsel Wesner explained the property is currently owned by a bank that desires to donate it to the City and that a title search was performed. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Strebing, Williams, Black, J.Cooper, B.Gilbert, O'Kane, Puhr

Nays: None

Motion carried 7 to 0.

#### #8-B) Discussion on Regulating Towing Companies

Corporation Counsel reiterated the idea of regulating towing service companies as suggested by Alderman Black. He stated that the ordinance from Champaign is only for the regulation of Commercial Relocating of Trespassing Vehicles whereby businesses contract with a towing company to remove vehicles that are trespassing on private property. The City also regulates towing companies that tow vehicles by order of the Police Division for emergency purposes through an agreement. The City could choose to regulate all towing companies and require insurance, type of equipment to have on hand, and

background checks for safety reasons, in addition to State and Federal regulations; however, fees charged to the public are regulated by the Illinois Commerce Commission and cannot be regulated locally. Alderman Black voiced support of regulating towing companies for safety and protection of residents, especially senior citizens, and does not feel it to be excessive. He also suggested that rules and procedures be established for when a vehicle is towed, such as for retrieving items left in the vehicle. To address Alderman O'Kane's questions, Corporation Counsel Wesner stated that some language in the Champaign ordinance could be used while drafting regulations for the City; the City could require proof of licensing and/or compliance with other agencies; and the cost of background checks was not immediately known. Corporation Counsel also stated the City could establish a license for the drivers of tow trucks along with procedures for a revocation process. Aldermen J.Cooper voiced support of regulating these companies and to require background checks on all drivers. After discussion, it was stated that a draft ordinance will be prepared and submitted to Public Services Committee for review and recommendation to full Council. The proposal will also be sent to all area towing companies for input.

#8-C) Items of Information – None

#9 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Dick Brazda, Director

#9-A) Items of Information

The Monthly Recap Report for December 2011, including 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 2012, and a Summary of ADA Rides provided by CRIS were presented. Director Brazda stated ridership was up 18% in December, more than likely due to heavy snow fall last December that kept people from traveling. It was clarified that "Demand Response", as listed on the Monthly Ridership by Route report is the evening dial-a-ride that covers the area of several routes in the evening (not "services provided by CRIS Senior Services", as was mistakenly stated at the meeting).

#10 PUBLIC WORKS – Doug Ahrens, Director

#10-A) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution awarding Bid #474 for Carnegie Building Roof Replacement to lowest responsible bidder Advanced Wayne Cain & Sons Roofing in the amount of \$87,554.00, to come from Buildings line item in the Capital Improvement Fund Budget. Director Ahrens also stated that Comptroller Lewis advised that a budget amendment was needed to place funds into this line item since no funding was allocated in the 2011-2012 Budget. It was clarified that the Capital Improvement Fund Reserve is the carryover amount from prior years and that the reason for the extra amount above the bid amount is to account for possible additional expenses for damaged sheeting. Alderman O'Kane questioned if additional costs would come back to the Council, and it was stated "yes". Alderman Black questioned if there were any industrial or commercial roofing companies in Danville that could perform such work and no one was aware of any. Alderman Black moved to amend the resolution by adding new #3 to "authorize a budget amendment to increase line item Buildings by \$90,000.00, to come from the Capital Improvement Fund Reserve", seconded by Vice Chairman B.Gilbert. There being no further discussion on the amendment, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Strebing, Williams, Black, J.Cooper, B.Gilbert, O'Kane, Puhr

Nays: None

Motion carried 7 to 0.

There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote on the resolution as amended being:

Ayes: Aldermen Williams, Black, J.Cooper, B.Gilbert, O'Kane, Strebing, Puhr

Nays: None

Motion carried 7 to 0.

#10-B) Chairman Puhr presented an ordinance amending Chapter 52 Solid Waste Collection User Charge to redefine "Minor Cleanup Collection" and "Major Cleanup Collection" and to adopt a new Collection Fee Schedule. Vice Chairman B.Gilbert moved for approval, seconded by Alderman J.Cooper. Director Ahrens reiterated the proposal presented to Council on January 3, 2012, that included:

- 1) reduction of two additional full-time positions from Solid Waste Division;
- 2) reduction in Capital Improvements funding from \$1,170,000 to \$990,000, which includes an allowance for yard waste site to be purchased over a longer period of time and the reduction of automated arm replacement from four trucks to two;
- 3) addition of \$30,000.00 in revenues for reimbursement of demolition expenses that will come from other Funds made available for demolition activities;
- 4) an annual increase of \$5.00 for the next four years for Yard Waste Sticker, being \$25.00 in the first year (FY2012-2013) to \$40.00 in the fourth and fifth year (FY2015-2016 & FY2016-2017), to help offset program costs and become more self sustaining;
- 5) a \$75.00 fee for first two and \$200.00 for all subsequent Major Cleanup set-outs larger than 150 cubic feet;
- 6) a \$20.00 fee for all second and subsequent Minor Cleanup set-outs at or below 150 cubic feet, with first set-out being free; and
- 7) maintaining the Solid Waste Fee of \$18.00 for the first year (FY2012-2013), with a slight increase of \$1.25 per year in the second to fifth year (FY2013-2014 to FY2016-2017);

He stated that most of the savings went into the Streets Division Budget and clarified a comment by an audience member that Street Sweeping was a concept of the proposal from the beginning. IMRF and FICA costs were also added into the Solid Waste Fund budget in 2006-2007; thereby, creating additional savings to property taxes of about \$160,000.00 to \$170,000.00 per year. Solid Waste Division Reserve funds have been used to pay off all loans through the Division and that \$400,000.00 is projected to be the Reserve balance at the end of the fiscal year. It was explained that of the monthly \$18.00 fee currently charged for Solid Waste, \$12.70 is for household waste that includes the cost for the Spring and Fall leaf collection totaling \$65,000.00, \$1.50 for yard waste program, and \$3.80 for Street Sweeping/N.P.D.E.S. Compliance. Demolition costs have been removed from the monthly fee and will now come from other sources. During discussion, various comments, suggestions, and questions from Aldermen being:

- Alderman Black:
  - recommended reducing the Street Sweeping portion by \$1.00 and placing that towards demolitions due to the need for continued demolition in neighborhoods; however, Director Ahrens stated there is already a reduction to the Street Sweeping operations and that with elimination of two positions, personnel will now come from the Street Sweeping operations to assist in future demolitions;
  - stated State law mandates separation of yard waste from other municipal waste material;
  - questioned the ability to burn materials, with Director Ahrens stating I.E.P.A. will issue emergency burn permits but he is not aware of any community that burns yard waste material;
  - voiced objection with multi-year lock ins with the uncertainty of increases in other taxes and utility fees, with Director Ahrens stating multi-year plans are a planning tool that not only allows for the ability to purchase land and/or equipment but allows for the ability of cash flow during that period, it also benefits the Council by not having 5-6 months of debate every year along with the ability to revisit and amend any provisions during that multi-year period, and it provide the residents with the ability to know ahead of time what fees will be in order to plan their budgets; and
  - voiced concern that the Administration is reluctant to invite private haulers to a public meeting to discuss what services could be provided to the City and at what cost, with Director Ahrens stating the Council has the ability to request proposals of private haulers by formal action being taken.
- Alderman Williams:
  - questioned staff reduction, with Director Ahrens stating there are currently 16 positions under Solid Waste Division, including 15 union positions and 1 non-union position. This proposal would eliminate 1 non-union and 1 union position, with the Yard Waste Site Manager's position becoming a union position, for a total of 14 positions;
  - voiced objection to laborer positions being eliminated and suggested that some manager positions in Public Works be eliminated instead;
  - stated he was disturbed that the Administration has disregarded the Aldermen's request to have an item by item proposal as well as ignore suggestions and opinions, with Mayor Eisenhower

responding by clarifying the ability of Aldermen to vote on the programs separately but that it will change the bottom numbers when certain elements are taken out of the formula;

- voiced strong opposition to residents having to subsidize services that they don't use and thinks that those who desire and use the yard waste program should pay the full cost, with several others responding by stating that many services are rarely or never used but are paid for by everyone in the community through taxes/fees, including solid waste, yard waste, and small and large cleanup collections, as well as services of the Fire and Police Divisions; and
- encouraged the Committee to vote "no" on the proposal.
- Alderman O'Kane voiced concern with removing demolition costs and with raising the Yard Waste Sticker price to \$40.00.
- Alderman J. Cooper:
  - on behalf of people who have contacted him, voiced support of the Yard Waste Program and of maintaining the entire Solid Waste Program, even if an increase is needed; and
  - suggested one free Major Cleanup set-out be allowed.
- Vice Chairman B. Gilbert voiced support of the proposal as presented.
- Chairman Puhr voiced support of the proposal and agrees with the five-year philosophy to address capital needs.

During discussion, various fee amounts were suggested and entered onto a computer spreadsheet to show the year-end numbers throughout the five-year period, including a scenario submitted by Alderman Davis that included \$1,170,000.00 for Capital expenditures and that would provide a surplus of \$181,560.00 at the end of the five year period, with no formal action. There being no further discussion on the original proposal, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen J. Cooper, B. Gilbert, O'Kane, Strebing, Puhr

Nays: Aldermen Black, Williams

Motion carried 5 to 2.

#10-C) Chairman Puhr presented an ordinance amending Chapter 51 Sewers to update language to reflect current organizational structure, to increase the permit and penalty amounts, and to provide for public sewer connections for property currently not served by the sewer. Alderman Strebing moved for approval, seconded by Vice Chairman B. Gilbert. Corporation Counsel Wesner advised that a new revised draft was handed out prior to the meeting and then highlighted those sections so revised. During discussion, City Engineer Schnelle explained that each situation will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine the best approach; however, it is the intent to require every property to connect to the public sewer system if at all feasible. The Engineering Division has been able to analyze every property and created a list of those that can connect and those that are not feasible. With regards to the fees being imposed, Corporation Counsel Wesner stated that penalties should be enough to keep one from violating the regulation and the fees and penalties being proposed are consistent with others in the Code of Ordinances. After all questions were addressed, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen J. Cooper, B. Gilbert, O'Kane, Strebing, Williams, Black, Puhr

Nays: None

Motion carried 7 to 0.

#### #10-D) Items of Information

- Suggestions for changes to the Stormwater Management ordinance will be presented next month.
- A proposal will be presented next month regarding the South Griffin Street Bridge now that the City has received funding from a Major Bridge Grant for year 2015 in which a local match will be required.

#10-D-1) H & L Landfill Update - City Engineer Schnelle stated that there was nothing to report.

#### #10-D-2) Bresee Towers Update

Mayor Eisenhauer reported that the owners of the property are from out of the area and that the City has pursued action regarding maintenance of the exterior of the building. Since the owner was seeking to

donate the property, Downtown Danville, Inc. took a "Right of First Refusal" on the building. DDI Director Dana Schaumburg was not able to attend tonight's meeting to address questions; however, the City continues to be involved in discussions with DDI regarding taking steps to preserve the building and avoid demolition.

**#10-D-3) Sewer Updates**

Engineer Sam Cole handed out a spreadsheet and map outlining the past, present, and future sanitary sewer projects. He stated the projects are prioritized based upon the needs and budget through 2018 and then highlighted the various projects. It is the intent to reduce flooding in various areas by maintaining the sewer system and by monitoring flow and pump stations to make sure all are in operation. City Engineer Schnelle stated the spreadsheet and map will be posted on the website for all to view and any questions or suggestions should be addressed to Engineering Division. Funding for such projects are in part from the Sanitary Sewer fees that have allowed approximately \$4.3 million in infrastructure improvements over the last several years.

**#11 CLOSED SESSION was not needed**

**#12 COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- Alderman Black announced the Habitat for Humanity Souper Bowl VII on Thursday, February 2, 2012, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.
- Mayor Eisenhauer reminded all about the Martin Luther King Banquet on Sunday, January 15, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. at Days Hotel. The march will be on Monday, January 16, 2012, beginning at 10:30 and ending with a church service at 11:30 at St. James United Methodist Church.

**#13 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. by acclamation after a motion by Alderman Strebing and a second by Vice Chairman B. Gilbert.

Approved: 02/14/12  
Posted Publicly: 02/20/12

  
Janet K. Myers, City Clerk