PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021

#1 CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Mike Puhr called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 6:03 p.m. via teleconference.

[Due to Coronavirus, COVID-19 the meeting was conducted in a combination of in person and virtual attendance through audio/video access using a virtual meeting platform to maintain social distancing during the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation and Public Act 101-0640. The Robert E. Jones Municipal Building, 17 W. Main St., Danville, Illinois was the meeting location for the in person attendees. The meeting was streamed live on the City of Danville website’s homepage: www.cityofdanville.org.]

Roll Call was answered by Chairman Mike Puhr, Vice Chairman Rick Strebing, Aldermen Bob Iverson, Mike O’Kane, Sherry Pickering, Aaron Troglia, and Robert Williams. A quorum was present.

Staff Members and Elected Officials Physically Present: Mayor Rickey Williams, Jr., City Clerk Lisa Monson and Information Technology Assistant Administrator Aaron Weaver.

Others in Attendance via Videoconference: Alderman James Poshard, City Comptroller Ashlyn Massey, City Engineer Sam Cole, Grants & Planning Manager Logan Cronk, Public Transportation Director Lisa Beith, and Public Works Director Carl Carpenter.

Various members of the public and media joined the electronic meeting via YouTube live video streaming.

#2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Chairman Puhr presented Minutes of the regular meeting of January 12, 2021. Alderman Iverson moved for approval as presented, seconded by Vice Chairman Strebing. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Chairman Puhr presented the agenda and announced Items 9-C and 9-D will be switched as Item 9-D accepting a grant will need approval before Item 9-C. There being no further changes, Alderman Pickering moved for approval as amended, seconded by Vice Chairman Strebing. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#4 AUDIENCE COMMENTS
#4-A) PUBLIC HEARING for Petition to Vacate Alleyways in 800 Block of Oak Street for Heartland Properties III, Inc. Chairman Puhr opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. for the Petition to Vacate and asked for comments in support of or in opposition of the alley vacation. There being no comments in support of or in opposition of the alley vacation, Chairman Puhr closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

#4-B) PUBLIC HEARING for Petition to Vacate East-West Alleyways Abutting 77 N. Gilbert Street for Trupti Brahmbhatt and Anju Kumar, Paragon Hospitality, Inc./Days Inn Hotel owners. Chairman Puhr opened the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. for the Petition to Vacate and asked for comments in support of or in opposition of the alley vacation. Bill Walpe representing the VFW spoke in opposition and voiced concern of the proposed south alley vacation as there would have no access to the back end of the VFW parking lot off of Pine Street for their patrons. Mayor Williams explained the petition includes the vacation of an alleyway on the north side of the hotel between Pine and Gilbert as well as an alleyway on the south side of the building. Chairman Puhr asked if a portion of the south alleyway could be vacated and Mr. Walpe responded “no”, the alleyway cut is not big enough and there would be a need for a new access. He also stated he is not opposed to the Days Inn owners having the other half [west half] of the south alleyway where the hotel parking lot adjoins to it.
Chairman Puhr asked Engineer Cole if a portion of the alleyway could be vacated and he responded the City can vacate a portion of the alleyway so that is an option. Engineer Cole added another option would be where
an easement is provided in the ordinance to continue ingress and egress despite the vacation, but that would be up to the petitioner to decide whether they are agreeable to that term or not. Trupti Brahmbhatt, Petitioner and co-owner of Paragon Hospitality, Inc. stated the petition was filed due to the fact their new restaurant is set to open and they plan to have a drive-thru on the north alleyway. She stated the south alleyway is part of their property and it should have been part of the property when they purchased the building and it was discovered when an inspection was done for the driveway. Vice Chairman Strebing stated he supports vacating a portion of the south alleyway if everyone is in agreement. Chairman Puhr asked the petitioner if she was in agreement to only vacating the west part of the south alley and she responded she is in agreement to that and has no issue with the VFW accessing the east part of the south alley. Chairman Puhr asked Engineer Cole how the City could handle this change. Engineer Cole stated the City can coordinate with the petitioner and decide if they would like to revise the petition to change the limits to what would be more agreeable or if they would like to include an easement for that use. Chairman Puhr asked if the vote should be postponed on the alley vacation ordinance. Engineer Cole stated there would be time to amend the ordinance and petition before the Council meeting on February 16th. Carl VanVickle, also representing the VFW, stated they would like to purchase the east end of the south alley and they would be liable for maintenance. Mayor Williams suggested for the vote this evening to proceed with voting on the north alleyway and postpone voting on the west portion of the south alleyway until the City Council meeting next week. Chairman Puhr stated the Committee is in agreement to proceed with the Mayor’s suggestion. There being no further comments in support of or in opposition of the alley vacation, Chairman Puhr closed the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

Other Audience Comments
/Public input was received by e-mail and submitted to the City Clerk’s office prior to the meeting. Mayor Williams read the public comment per Council rules and time limits./

Robert Skoglund of Danville submitted public comment asking several questions in regards to the Shaffer Solid Waste containers as well as inquiring about the current plans for recycling in Danville. In addition, Mr. Skoglund inquired about what services is Danville trying to obtain for added transit growth to the DMT with federal aid. Director Carpenter responded Shaffer is the company name and they are not bins nor used for commercial or industrial businesses. They are the residential carts that the City has been selling for the last two years. The price is $50.25 and the delivery fee needs to be added in and by the time the staff gets them assembled and stored and then delivered back to the residents is why the City charges $65.00 flat rate. It is a one-time fee and the container belongs to the household. The purpose of the cart is for household waste and is not for recycling, but it can be used for yard waste if a yard waste sticker is purchased. The carts can be purchased by calling City Hall or Public Works via credit card or visiting either location. The Public Works staff will deliver the cart. Six years ago the City discussed recycling. Keep Vermilion County Beautiful had recycling containers at Washington and Main Streets through a grant and it ended up costing them quite a considerable amount to have those dumped. We currently do not have anyone local to collect recyclables with the closest one in Indianapolis, so we would have to collect recyclables and truck them over and for the cost that you get of a recyclable now, we would end up paying $20,000 minimum every six months to haul our recyclables over there which would end up raising the fees for everyone. At this time we are not looking at doing household recycling. Mayor Williams stated people were dumping into the recycling containers also. He agrees with recycling in theory and explained six or seven years ago we did a survey with the residents and the results were citizens did not want to have their fees increased. Director Carpenter stated he still has the survey and will e-mail it to the Council.

Director Beith responded to Mr. Skoglund’s question asking what services is DMT trying to obtain. She stated everything is on hold until we find out the results of the 2020 Census to see what federal aid we receive. We did some overhaul of the routes in January 2020, so right now we are not going to make any decisions on services. The second part of the question is there the system in place for busing to Champaign and Director Beith responded we have been providing the Champaign service for almost fifteen years as it started in March, 2006. We are currently running seven weekday round trips and five Saturday round trips so that is just about the whole service day, so we are not going to be doing any additions. As far as tweaking the times Greyhound has cut back on the number of trips that they are making into Illinois terminals. There is the option of taking our bus or taking the Greyhound bus to Champaign.
#5 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS
Chairman Puhr stated it has been a rough few days since Alderman Tom Stone passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, February 4, 2021. The impact he had on the community and the number of lives he touched was incredible. Chairman Puhr knew him for 25 years and he is going to be missed.

#6 PAYROLL
Chairman Puhr presented the Payroll for February 5, 2021 of $77,504.66. Alderman Pickering moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Vice Chairman Strebing. There being no questions, the roll call vote being:
Ayes: Aldermen Pickering, Troglio, Williams, Strebing, Iverson, O’Kane, Puhr
Nays: None
Motion carried 7 to 0.

#7 VOUCHERS PAYABLE
Chairman Puhr presented the Schedule of Vouchers Payable for special run of February 3, 2021, of $605.00 and the regular run of February 9, 2021, of $1,068,707.15. Alderman Iverson moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval, seconded by Vice Chairman Strebing. There being no questions, the roll call vote being:
Ayes: Aldermen Troglio, Williams, Strebing, Iverson, O’Kane, Pickering, Puhr
Nays: None
Motion carried 7 to 0.

#8 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Lisa Beith, Director
#8-A) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution Authorizing Filing of Applications with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for Federal Transportation Assistance. Vice Chairman Strebing moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Pickering. Director Beith explained this is done annually to make sure everyone is in concurrence in applying for federal grants. There being no questions or further discussion, the roll call vote being:
Ayes: Aldermen Williams, Strebing, Iverson, O’Kane, Pickering, Troglio, Puhr
Nays: None
Motion carried 7 to 0.

#8-B) Items of Information
#8-B-1) Director Beith presented the Monthly Recap for January, 2021, which included Monthly Revenue Record, and Ridership History. The total ridership for the month of January was 28,477, which was down 76% from last year. The total revenue for the month of January was $16,737.95, which was a drop of 59% from last year.

#8-B) Other Items of Information
- Bus wrap will be used on the commuter buses to offer the suggestion of using the I-74 buses as a marketing tool in both the Danville and Champaign markets. The goal is to feature local essential workers.
- Public comment will be received until March 15, 2021 for the DMT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program goals for 2021-2023. The goals are listed on the home page of the City website [cityofdanville.org] as well as the DMT website [rideDMT.org]. Necessary adjustments will be made and goals will be submitted to the FTA. Administrator Finch got together a group from her Human Relations Commission and we talked about program goals and the low numbers of DBE certified participants in this area. Director Beith and Administrator Finch are going to have a couple of meetings in April with area minority groups, including women, to encourage them and introduce the idea of them becoming certified so they can be a participant in some of the state and federal contracts.

#9 PUBLIC WORKS – Carl Carpenter, Director
#9-A) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution Approving Sole Source Purchase of Waste Collection Containers from Schaffer Incorporated for 500, 95-gallon containers for the price of $26,875.00, delivered, or $50.25 per cart, plus the delivery fee of $1,750.00, with funds for this purchase to come from Solid Waste Fund, line item #405-405-55016. The price is a Sourcewell Government Purchasing price, public notice and bidding provisions of the City of Danville Purchasing Policy are waived. Vice Chairman Strebing moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Pickering. Vice Chairman Strebing asked what the City could do to save money on the delivery fee and Director Carpenter responded there is not anything the City can do to save money on the delivery of the containers. The delivery is for the entire semi-truckload of containers and the City does not have a semi-truck to use to pick-up the container. Alderman Pickering asked if the price is about the same as the last container purchase and Director Carpenter responded the price has not increased for close to seven years. Vice Chairman Strebing asked if the purchase is for the large and small containers and Director Carpenter stated the purchase will be for the 95 gallon containers only. Also the smaller containers do not sell as well as the larger ones. The City has less than ten of the original 48-gallon containers from 2007. After all questions were addressed, the roll call vote being:
Ayes: Aldermen Strebing, Iverson, O’Kane, Pickering, Troglia, Williams, Puhr
Nays: None
Motion carried 7 to 0.

#9-B) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution Approving Agreement for Engineering Services for 5th Street Pump Station Rehabilitation to Donohue and Associates in the amount of $45,000.00, as the pump station has exceeded its life expectancy, with the work to be paid for from the Storm and Sanitary Sewer Enterprise Fund line item 402-402-00-52022 (Engineering Services). Vice Chairman Strebing moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Troglia. Engineer Cole explained the pump station is past its prime by two decades and the hope is to get it designed this year and permitted and we would be able to construct the improvements next year. The pump station is located by the old Bullock Garages on South Gilbert Street on the east side of that property. The pump station serves a significant portion of south Danville. There being no questions or further discussion, the roll call vote being:
Ayes: Aldermen Iverson, O’Kane, Pickering, Troglia, Williams, Strebing, Puhr
Nays: None
Motion carried 7 to 0.

Chairman Puhr presented Items C and D for a single vote. There being no objections, Vice Chairman Strebing moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Troglia. Those items being:

#9-C) a resolution Accepting a Grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority’s Strong Communities Program in the amount of $175,000.00 to be used to preserve affordable housing efforts by assisting with the rehabilitation and/or demolition of abandoned properties; and

#9-D) a resolution Creating Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Illinois Housing Development Authority’s (IHDA) Stronger Communities Program (SCP).

There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:
Ayes: Aldermen O’Kane, Pickering, Troglia, Williams, Strebing, Iverson, Puhr
Nays: None
Motion carried 7 to 0.

#9-E) Chairman Puhr presented a resolution Approving CDBG Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2021 for the funding year from May 2021 through April 2022 to provide $30,000.00 for accessibility modifications; $250,000.00 for neighborhood impact program; $15,000.00 for homelessness; $250,000.00 for demolitions/blight removal; $258,061.00 for public improvements and infrastructure; $30,000.00 Public Services; $175,000.00 for administrative reimbursement, for a total of $1,008,061.00, and transmitting a copy to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), with three digital public meetings conducted to receive citizen input for the development of the Plan during January, 2021. Vice Chairman Strebing moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Pickering. Alderman Troglia stated he would like to see as much money as possible moved to blight removal. Mayor
Williams responded the City takes the maximum amount and there is a cap on the categories. Vice Chairman Strebing stated there is a chance to get more money from the federal government and Manager Cronk stated when they come to monitor us they like to see low to moderate income housing being built to replace the blight that is being torn down. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Pickering, Troglia, Williams, Strebing, Iverson, O’Kane, Puhr
Nays: None
Motion carried 7 to 0.

#9-F) Chairman Puhr presented an ordinance Authorizing Vacation of Alleyways in 800 Block of Oak Street for Heartland Properties III, Inc. for 808, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, and 815 Oak Street, in the amount of $1,975.90. Alderman Pickering moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Troglia. Alderman Iverson stated the alleyway is next to Carle Ambulance and asked if they have any concern with the proposed alley vacation. Manager Cronk stated Arrow Ambulance received a letter and the City received no opposition from them. Rick Elkin, Petitioner and owner of Heartland Properties III, Inc., stated the alleyways they are looking to vacate are the east-west on the north side of the building. No one is using the alley except it might be used occasionally by his tenants. It has a hill on it and is not in good shape. The other north-south alley is on the right, immediately on the backside of the building, which is quite a distance from the main alleyway that borders Carle Arrow Ambulance. The asphalt will be stripped off of the back lot and returning it to grass where the alley itself will be located. Mr. Elkin stated Heartland is redeveloping the building so apparently there are seven commercial locations downstairs and seven apartments upstairs. We have been working with E. A. Architects and the parking for the 14 units will be in the back lot. The development will be a tremendous improvement to the neighborhood. They will be taking 20 feet off of the back of the building and that will square up the building. The upstairs apartments are 750 to 800 square feet and the lower level units will be the same size. The front streetscape will be new as well. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Troglia, Williams, Strebing, Iverson, O’Kane, Pickering, Puhr
Nays: None
Motion carried 7 to 0.

#9-G) Chairman Puhr presented an ordinance Authorizing Vacation of East-West Alleyways Abutting 77 N. Gilbert Street for Trupti Brahmbhatt and Anju Kumar, Paragon Hospitality, Inc./Days Inn owners, which includes the north alley and an amended portion of the south alley. Vice Chairman Strebing moved to dispense with the reading and asked for approval, seconded by Alderman Troglia. Manager Cronk stated ordinance changes will be made to what is amenable to the petitioners and the VFW before the City Council meeting next week. There being no further questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:

Ayes: Aldermen Williams, Strebing, Iverson, O’Kane, Pickering, Troglia, Puhr
Nays: None
Motion carried 7 to 0.

#9-H) Items of Information

#9-H-1) Danville Area Transportation Study (DATS) Update – no report

#9-H-2) H&L Landfill Update – nothing to report

#9-H-3) Project Updates

- Northwest Sanitary Sewer Service Area Reconstruction: Engineer Cole stated the project is on pause due to cold weather.
- Engineer Cole stated other projects are moving along.
- Staff is in the process of getting the Denmark Road project awarded. Bid came in higher than the estimates.
- Director Carpenter stated Public Works had snow removal last weekend so more overtime will be reflected on the Payroll Report. The City has used about 1,000 tons of salt in the last two weeks.
- Director Carpenter wished his wife a “Happy 36th Anniversary”.

#10 CLOSED SESSION was not needed.

#11 ITEMS OF INFORMATION
Chairman Puhr asked Mayor Williams if there were any warming shelters planning to be open with the upcoming frigid temperatures. Mayor Williams stated he has not had any projections for that yet as the temperature has to hit a certain degree below before the warming shelters are offered. He can check with the American Red Cross. He gave a special "shout out" to Commander McCord and the police officers for doing a good job making connections and getting folks into place where it is warm. He also gave a special "shout out" to one of our citizens, Frank Wright, for helping provide places for folks to go to get warm.

#12 COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ COMMENTS
Alderman Pickering wished a "Happy Belated Birthday" to Mayor Williams who celebrated a birthday on February 6th.

#13 ADJOURNMENT
There being no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. by acclamation after a motion by Vice Chairman Strebing and a second by Alderman Troglia.

Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk

Approved: 03/09/21
Posted Publicly: 03/10/21