

The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee
held a meeting on Wednesday, June 9th, 2021 beginning at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chair Mitchell, Members Cerra, Simmons, Keys **ABSENT:** Davis
OTHERS PRESENT: Asst. Law Director Breunig, Asst. Engineer McKillips, Council Member Oswald

1. Approval of the May 26th, 2021 Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Keys to approve the 'said' meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

**2. The matter of advertising for and awarding a contract for the Burns Road
(*Gulf Rd. to Abbe Rd.*) resurfacing project.**

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider

Engineer McKillips said the three items on the agenda were projects that were submitted last year through 'round 35' of the Ohio Public Works Commission [OPWC] funding application process. The City received verbal confirmation that these 3 projects scored high enough to get funded. As yet, we have not received anything in writing, but in anticipation of receiving the funding agreements, we are requesting that these projects receive authorization to advertise for bid and when the funding agreements are executed, we would award the construction contracts.

Mr. Oswald stated that he is always asked about where the monies come from, what is the City doing with that license fee, etc., and some of that money is getting used toward this and it's a great benefit. Mr. Oswald said he is happy these are getting fixed, they are in his Ward, which is the 4th Ward. He's also pleased that the guardrails along the river are also getting fixed and he thanked the Engineer.

Mrs. Keys moved, seconded by Mr. Cerra authorizing an ordinance to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the 'said' resurfacing project.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

**3. The matter of advertising for and awarding a contract for the Abbe Road
(*Cleveland St. to Rt 57*) resurfacing project.**

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider

Engineer McKillips said this is also an OPWC Project and they do anticipate receiving funding for this as well, sometime in early July. So they are requesting authorizing to go out for bid for this project.

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Keys authorizing an ordinance to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the 'said' resurfacing project.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of advertising for and awarding a contract for the Gulf Road (WWPC Plant north to Windbrook Dr.) resurfacing project.

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider

Engineer McKillips said this is also the same thing. They do anticipate funding for this project in early July. They will move forward with advertising and once the agreements are executed they will award the contract. And the guard rails can also be worked on as part of this project.

Mrs. Keys moved, seconded by Mr. Cerra authorizing an ordinance to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the 'said' resurfacing project.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of the purchase of equipment and parts for the refurbishment of the WWPC Plant Aeration Blower #2.

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider

Superintendent Korzan said the matter for this new aeration blower goes back to 2008. They had acquired a variable frequency drive for blower number one. They have a total of four of these blower which supply air to the aeration basins. They are 400 horsepower blowers. They got the first one through an energy type grant program. Back then the cost for the variable frequency drive was \$85,000. Variable frequency drives save a lot of energy, especially with high horsepower motors and blowers. The plants electric bills run between \$28,000 and \$34,000 dollars a month. Before that first variable frequency drive was installed the bills were \$45,000 dollars a month, so we are now saving \$10,000 dollars a month after installing that drive, which has been on for 13 years and it runs all day long and every day of the year. So, we need to replace blower #2, it's old and starting to show signs of wear. It was inspected and it was determined that it was better to replace the blower. They would also like to put a second variable frequency drive on that blower, because that's the one that comes on next when blower #1 isn't working to supply enough air. They are hoping this will help save another \$5,000 dollars a month off the electric bill. The return on investment is definitely there. In order to put the variable frequency drive on, they have to change the motor, VFD's don't run standard motors, they would have to buy an induction motor.

The cost breakdown for the roots blower is roughly \$115,000 dollars for the replacement induction motor is around \$46,000 dollars and for the variable frequency drive, they are looking at roughly \$66,000 dollars. The guestimate for the total project is around \$250,000 dollars with some contingencies. The engineering department has asked for more than that just to cover all bases and it will come out of the Engineering side of the sewer fund, out of their Capital Outlay Account.

Mr. Oswald asked if this is something that will be done in house?

Mr. Korzan said the crews will be doing the install on the blower and the motor and the variable frequency drive but it will be commissioned by Rockwell Automation and will be done free of charge. Once we get the blower and motor installed, a company will come out for a minimal charge just to laser align it to make sure it's running properly. So, 99% will be self-installed by our skilled maintenance.

Mr. Tollett asked if this can be funded thru American Rescue because it has to do with our sewer system, does it fit that criteria?

Mr. Korzan said he would have to defer that question to the Law Dir. But he did say that they have been working on this project and getting costs since July of 2020.

Law Dir Breunig said he didn't know if it's a matter of whether the project was started or in process prior to or during dependance of the American Rescue Plan.

That could be the determining factor. Or it could do more with whether or not the project advances the agenda of the Clean Water Act as to whether it falls under. The Clean Water Act is the key as far as infrastructure money as far as the American Rescue Plan and there is probably an argument that we could use this based on its use at the plant but he would have to look into more specifics on that.

Mr. Korzan said this is considered a repair and maintenance item because it's something we already have and we just need to replace it because it's wearing out and we would be getting the efficiency of adding the variable frequency drive.

Mr. Breunig said if it's something that Council wants to pursue the Law Office can confer with the Finance Director's Office. He said the beauty of the American Rescue Plan as it compares to the Cares Act from last year is that it gives us a flexibility in allocating and reallocating funds. We do have until December 31st of 2024 to encumber the funds and 2026 to spend them. If we encumber the funds on a project and we decide to change our minds, we should have the ability to do that.

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Keys authorizing an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to purchase 'said' equipment and parts for the WWPC Plant.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Keys to Adjourn the Meeting at 6:20 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary

(Meeting was attended by Secretary Rosado and Meeting Minutes were Transcribed by Secretary Rosado)