

held a meeting on Wednesday, July 14th, 2021 beginning at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chair Mitchell, Members Cerra, Simmons, Keys **ABSENT:** Davis-(ZOOM)

OTHERS PRESENT: Asst. Law Director Breunig, Safety Svc Dir Brubaker, Parks Dir Reardon, Engineer Schneider, Councilpersons Oswald and Tollett

Law Director Breunig wanted to speak to the committee before the meeting begins.

Mr. Breunig wanted to note for the record that as of July 1st, 2021 the State Order allowing public meetings to meet remotely has expired. This evening we have Councilperson joining the meeting via Zoom. He wants to make it clear for the record that Mrs. Davis will not count toward the quorum nor will she be able to cast a vote. She can participate in discussion or deliberation but she cannot vote. Mr. Breunig does want to make a note for the record that there is a quorum of the committee present in person.

1. Approval of the June 9th, 2021 Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

2. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise for and award a contract for the East Park Pavilion Project, for installing and concrete work.

REFERRED BY: Parks Director Reardon *(This matter will also go to Finance Committee)*

Director Reardon said the pavilion at East Park was purchased last year. This request is for the installation of that pavilion and do some of the concrete work around it. The contractor that was originally contracted to do the work is not going to do it now. So, some of the pricing that was given was over the \$50,000 so they need to go out for bid. The money is already appropriated, it's just going to go to a different contractor.

Mr. Oswald asked if there will be water or electric put in the pavilion?

Dir Reardon said there will be a concrete pad under the pavilion and there will also be some concrete walkways which will connect to the trail and to the new restroom and to the parking lot. Dir Reardon said that there will not be any water or electric. None of the City pavilions have electricity or water.

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

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of the consideration of the purchase of 10 Evolis XL Solar Powered 28 X 28 Radar Speed Signs at a cost of \$5,499.00 for two at a total cost of \$27,495 for ten signs.

REFERRED BY: Councilperson Jessie *(This matter will also go to Finance Committee)*

Director Brubaker said he was involved in the discussion with Mr. Jessie, Chief Whitely as well as the Engineer's Office. These signs are put up per requests from residents. These signs are mobile and can placed temporality in areas where they are requested.

The Evolis solar signs are less expensive and are permanent signs. When this referral was made we didn't have the cost of the poles that will need to be included, which is \$12,000. So the total cost will be \$39,495.00. Mr. Jessie had the idea to put these posts in some of the City's high traffic areas and that are complaints are received on. And these will be permanent on permanent posts and operated by solar. Between Police Levy Funds and Issue 6 Funds, there would be monies and Finance Dir would determine what funds to pull those monies from.

Mrs. Keys asked how will they determine where the signs will go? And can council make requests?

Mr. Brubaker said yes, they can make requests as to where to place them. It will be between Council, Engineering Dept and Police Dept., to come up with those locations.

Chair Mitchell said these solar signs will be permanent but council can still request locations for the mobile signs. She stated that she is getting a lot of calls from residents about speeders.

Mr. Tollett said on behalf of the Finance Committee that Mr. Jessie had contacted him also and the EPD has made recommendations of high traffic areas like Gulf Rd., Abbe Rd., Cleveland St., heavy traffic areas.

Mr. Oswald asked if the permanent signs are a good idea? Thinking motorists will know they're there and will become complacent.

Mr. Brubaker said having the permanent ones will free up areas for the temporary ones.

Mr. Schneider said the permanent ones have an augur base which gets placed into the ground and it's semi permanent. This will be like a pilot program to see how well the permanent ones work and over time will see if it makes a big difference on the problematic areas such as Chestnut Ridge, University, S. Abbe, Gulf Rd. Those areas will be monitored to see if it helps to have the permanent signs. The mobile ones will still be used in other areas such as neighborhood streets.

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Keys authorizing an ordinance to advertise and enter into a contract for the purchase of 10 solar radar signs and poles.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise for and award a contract for additional street resurfacing projects throughout the City.

(Street list will be provided by the Engineering Dept.).

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider *(This matter will also go to Finance Committee)*

Engineer Schneider said he knows how council likes to have streets resurfaced. He said his office has rec'd requests from residents and some of those streets are on the resurfacing list and some have already been evaluated. These are bigger streets and cost more and use up the money for the ward. He said he spoke with the Finance Dir and there are additional funds that were Issue 6 Funds that are unappropriated.

Chair Mitchell said she is passionate about residential streets but she said that Council was not asked to participate in the decision of the these streets being presented tonight. She thought the City had already used the allotment of funds for this year. She asked why were the alternate streets or streets that were ranked higher not put on this list?

Mr. Schneider said they are still going through the bid process of the 1.7 million that was allocated for. They have about \$700,000 in the first round of bids, first phase. They are hoping to have some funds leftover and they will get to the alternates.

Mrs. Keys's concern is that the alternates won't get done and residents won't be happy.

Dir Brubaker said that the intent of the Mayor was to get this streets before the committee since they had been brought to his attention. There was not intent to take away any of the approved on the lists. This list is additional streets as well as additional monies.

The Mayor is fine if council decides to go a different direction.

Mrs. Mitchell said if we have an extra \$765,000 to spend, council can find somewhere to spend it.

Mr. Cerra is in agreement. He would like a chance to find out if there are some other streets to see which ones are worse.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if we chose not to do these streets this year, will there be money available to do them next year?

Mr. Schneider said there will be Issue 6 funds next year. Also his department can apply for some of them through Ohio Public Works Funds for next year. And those are usually the larger streets. Good streets to consider would be 2nd St., Fuller Rd., Washington Ave. With Ohio Public Works, they select the streets, which are done by a ranking system through the County.

Law Dir Breunig asked if the Elywood parking lot is the Metro Parks responsibility?

Mr. Schneider said that the parking lots are the City's responsibility since the City owns the property.

Mr. Cerra asked if they could Issue 6 Parks money for the Elywood parking lot?

Director Reardon it's not something for this year, but we could look into it for next year.

Mrs. Davis said she agrees that Council should've had a chance and opportunity to weigh in on these streets and since they will be using Issue 6 monies.

Chair Mitchell said she is not in favor of moving forward with this, as Ward Council, they pick the streets that need to be done. These streets on the this list are high dollar amounts. Having said that, what is the pleasure of this committee?

Mr. Cerra recommended tabling it until they have a chance to look at these streets and maybe submit some alternatives.

The committee was in agreement to table this matter to the next Utilities, Safety & Environment Meeting.

5. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise for and award a contract for construction of a pedestrian bridge/sidewalk on Fuller Road over the bridge ditch.

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider *(This matter will also go to Finance Committee)*

Engineer Schneider said there have been a number of complaints on Fuller Road because of the lack of sidewalks. There is a culvert or ditch which goes thru that area. In order to go across it they need to build some sort of structure. If they build into the ditch it could be impacting wetlands and things of that nature. The area is a few hundred feet east of Middle Ave. There is a bridge and it's on the north side and west of Linwood Street. They will make the sidewalk bike and pedestrian friendly. It will be 10 feet in width and hopefully will lead into a bike path in the future.

Mrs. Keys asked where the funds are coming from?

Mr. Schneider said this was not in the budget and the intent was to talk to the Finance and possibly use the Issue 6 Funds that were unappropriated.

Mr. Oswald asked what the approximate cost is.

Mr. Schneider said the cost is \$175,000 which includes the design, which we need a structural engineer for the design of this.

Chair Mitchell agrees that this project is needed and using Issue 6 Funds for it,
Mrs. Keys moved, seconded by Mrs. Simmons authorizing an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the 'said' project.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to submit applications for Grants and/or Loans and accept the funds, if offered for the year 2022 from OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission).

(A potential street list will be provided by the Engineering Dept.).

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider

Engineer said the City has applied for Ohio Public Works Funds for 36 years now, so, this is the 36th Round. These funds take care of roads. The list of roads are; Fuller Road, Cedar Street/2nd St (Broad to East Ave), Oberlin-Elyria Road, Hilliard, West Ave (Barres to 8th) and Chestnut Ridge (Rt 57 to Stillwater).

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Keys authorizing an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to submit applications and accept funds from OPWC for 'said' 2022 street projects.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise for and award a contract for the 2021 Crack Sealing Project.

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said the best way to protect the City's investment in these roads is to crack seal. Typically it should be done within two years when they were paved. Intent is to do a number of roads that were recently resurfaced as well as parts of Rt 57 to finish up.

Mr. Oswald said we have to protect our investment and it's money well spent. He asked where the money is coming from?

Mr. Breunig said that the monies have already been appropriated in the budget. This request is just authorizing the project itself. He asked if need emergency clause?

Mr. Schneider said the project won't start until fall so emergency is not necessary.

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

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

8. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with ODOT to perform reactive maintenance and spot paving on State Route 10 and 20 within the City's corporation limits.

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said anytime that ODOT comes into the City they are required to get permission to authorize them to do the work they are intending to do. This proposed work they want to do will not effect the City too much. It's largely over the bridge area, over the railroad tracks. The City is largely responsible for the maintenance on State Route 57. But there are select areas that ODOT is involved in. It usually involves bridges. They are looking to do minor maintenance at this time.

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Keys authorizing an agreement with ODOT to perform 'said' maintenance.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

9. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract regarding the transfer of the Oakwood School contents within the school to the City.

REFERRED BY: Administrative Legal Counsel Taylor

This matter has been Tabled to the August Committee Meeting.

Mr. Tollett brought up the matter of the new Brewery on East Bridge Street. He said that it appears to be doing very well. There seems to be a parking issue. When the matter was presented to Council and passed the parking was supposed to be in the doctor's offices near them. Now they are parking across the street, which is a safety concern of people crossing East Bridge Street.

Mr. Tollett asked if there were any calls for a potential sidewalk or crosswalk in the area?

Chair Mitchell said she believes the Brewery fell out of favor with the Doctor's who own the parking lot, for whatever reason and will not allow those patrons to park in that lot.

Mr. Brubaker said as of his knowledge there has not been anything brought to him about a sidewalk or crosswalk.

Mr. Cerra said the he had spoken to one of the owners and the deal was when they came in front of Council and that issue was discussed, they were able to get an agreement with Spitzer to lease out part of the parking lot directly across Tannery Street. That was pre-covid and then a new dentist came into the dental building and they were not willing to give up the spots that were required. So the Brewery was able to work something out with the parking lot across East Bridge Street.

Mr. Oswald said that is a good point and that the City should work with that business. Maybe the City could paint some lines and put up some caution signs would just be good for the City to do and it should be sooner than later.

Chair Mitchell agrees with Mr. Oswald.

Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Mrs. Keys moved, seconded by Mrs. Simmons to Adjourn the Meeting at 6:50 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary

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