

The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee

held a meeting on

Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 beginning at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Committee Chair Mitchell, Members; Davis, Oswald, Simmons, Corbin

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Director Deery, Engineer McKillips, WWPC Superintendent Korzan, Council Members Cerra and Lipian

1. Approval of the January 19th, 2021 Utility Committee Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Davis moved and Second by Mr. Oswald to approved the above mentioned Committee Meeting Minutes.

2. The matter of a review of Streets for the 2022 Street Resurfacing Program.

Referred By: Councilwoman Mitchell [Continued from Jan. 19th Meeting]

Chair Mitchell said that each ward will receive \$214,286 for street repairs.

Engineer McKillips began with going over the proposed list of streets which were selected at the last meeting and priced our those streets.

Ward One: Total ends up being \$209,000 for the four streets that were selected. And an additional street was added to be an alternate street, in the event there are additional funds.

Ward Two: Street costs come to \$332,000 so that cost needs to be brought down. There was discussion between Mrs. Davis and Engineer McKillips as to which streets to take out so they can bring the cost down. Mrs. Davis also chose an alternate street.

Ward Three: Streets were discussed with Mr. Corbin. He chose to make a change on the previous streets and will end up having an amount of \$3,000 which could go to another ward. His total would be \$204,211.

Ward Four: Mr. Oswald said the street that really needs to be resurfaced is Hamilton Circle, which is a concrete street. He listed the other streets he would like done the total came to \$221,515.

Ward Five: Mrs. Simmons discussed the streets and alleys that she is considering. She has decided to change her list from the previous meeting.

Engineer McKillips said there is an OPWC Project on West Ave., between Barres and Ninth Streets. There are lead line projects going on 11th Street. Total cost come to \$223,958

Ward Seven: Mr. Cerra discussed the street list for his ward. The total comes to \$225,752.

Ward Six: Chair Mitchell said she is happy with the street list she already chose.

The total for all streets is \$20,000 over what was budgeted.

Mr. Cerra asked when these will go out for bids?

Engineer McKillips said it will go out for bid as soon as they get the plans put together. They have already started collecting information on the signs, lengths, widths, the basic information. Probably bid out in next 4 - 6 weeks.

Mr. Oswald if we may get better pricing if we get them in early?

Engineer McKillips said that is possible. We will want to provide them enough scheduled time to fit us into that window where we can fit in our jobs in between bigger State jobs.

Engineer McKillips listed the cost for each ward; Ward 1 ~ \$209,020, Ward 2 ~ \$199,277, Ward 3 ~ \$211,436, Ward 4 ~ \$221,515, Ward 5 ~ \$223,958, Ward 6 ~ \$229,951, Ward 7 ~ \$225,752

Chair reminded the committee that when streets are completed there will be signs posted which say 'Issue 6 Dollars at work'. It's important to remind the residents.

Mrs. Davis asked what happened to the monies that were used for street resurfacing before we had Issue 6 monies?

Mr. Oswald said that in the body of the ordinance which recently passed for the crack-sealing project, it said the money was coming from the license tax and muni motor vehicle funds. And some of the other monies which we are talking about went for the designing of Cleveland St and Broad St. So, the monies are being spent for the roads, but in a different way.

Engineer McKillips said some of the Muni Motor Funds are being saved for our share of the East Broad Street project, because we have a share that we have to pay, as a match against the Federal Funds that we're getting for the East Broad Street project and the Cleveland Street project. Those match funds are coming out of the Muni Motor Fund.

Chair Mitchell said she's been on Council long enough to remember when we only had the Muni Motor Fund and only had a total of \$300,000, if it was a good year, and only one street per ward, so thanks to Issue 6 we can do more.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Oswald seconded to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the 2022 Street Resurfacing program.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of Ballistic Vests for the Elyria Police Department.

Referred By: Police Chief Pelko

[This matter will also go to the Finance Committee]

Chief Pelko said as they all know they wear bullet proof vests which protects them from firearms. They are coming up on the 5-years of the current purchase and the vests have a five-year warranty in shelf life. They are looking at Galls to get a point blank vest through NASPA which is similar to the State Bid Pricing. The current pricing of the vests are \$903 each for a vest with an interior carrier and \$1,070 for a vest with the external carrier. The external carrier allows officers to carry attachments on the vest instead of the belt which takes the strain off their backs. So, they would like to purchase 73 external carrier vests and 4 internal carrier vests. The total purchase would be \$81,722. They will apply for grants. There is a state grant that they've gotten in the past which will cover 75% of the cost up to \$40,000 which will cover 50 vests. And there is a federal grant which would cover 50% of the cost of the remaining 27 vests. The City would pay \$28,000 for the 77 vests and reimburse \$54,000 from the grants.

Law Dir Deery asked if this is thru a Cooperative Purchasing Program

Chief Pelko said, yes, it's NASPA. And yes, this should pass as emergency.

Mr. Oswald asked if the vests will work with the clip-ons, where the body cameras will go?

Chief Pelko said yes, those will work with the body cameras. Chief Pelko explained the difference of the vests. The one that's cheaper that you wear on the inside, it goes under the uniform, the other vests has a carrier that would go on the outside of the uniform shirt. It looks like the uniform, but on the bottom around the belly there's straps where you can put your magazines, pepper spray, flashlight, hazer and it takes the weight off. On the cheaper vest you've got to wear all the equipment around your belt which has proven to cause back problems. By putting the equipment on the vest and torso, it relieves some back pain and stress. They both have the same ballistic protection.

Mr. Corbin moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to authorize the purchase of 'said' equipment for the Police Department thru State Purchasing or equivalent program.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of purchasing of a 2022 Mack Semi-Tractor & Ford F-450 for the WWPC Plant.

Referred By: WWPC Superintendent Korzan

[This matter will also go to the Finance Committee]

Supt. Korzan said this is to purchase a Mack Tractor to replace to current one they have which is giving various expensive issues and it needs to be replaced. It will be purchased through the ODOT Contract. The monies are in the Temp. 2022 Budget.

There is a long lead time, they're looking at about a year before they would receive it. They will replace the current F-350 with a new Ford F-450. They have the ability to purchase this now, otherwise it would be 8-9 months to get it. That will be through the Ford Fleet Government pricing plan.

Mrs. Davis asked what they will do with the old vehicles?

Supt Korzan said they will be working through the Fleet Manager to figure out the best way to do that.

Mr. Oswald moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to authorize the purchase of 'said' vehicles for the WWPC Plant.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of a new agreement with N. Ridgeville for the purchase of Drinking Water.

Referred By: Water Team Leader Sam F. Jacob *[This matter will also go to the Finance Committee]*

This matter was placed on hold per Water Team Leader Jacob.

6. The matter of a Wet Weather Program, Water Pollution Loan Fund App & Agreement.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips *[This matter will also go to the Finance Committee]*

Engineer McKillips said they're requesting authorization for the mayor to apply for FIFA loan through the Ohio EPA for the East Side Relief Sewer, Phase 1D and 2 North project. It will be for approximately twenty million dollars. The project is part of the Wet Weather Program which is a list of projects that are mandated through the consent decree that the City is still negotiating with the DOJ and the US EPA and Ohio EPA. But they are moving forward with this projects. Phase 1D and 2 North are next on the list and they involve the sewer continuing on Poplar Street, being set extended down Harwood, to Dilworth to Gulf, to East Bridge and will terminate it temporarily near the RR Tracks at East Bridge until they get the next phase designed and applied for which will be another year or two.

Mr. Oswald moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to authorize an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to apply for and enter into the 'said' loan program.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of a Grant Application for the 'Safe Routes to School Program'.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips *[This matter will also go to the Finance Committee]*

Engineer McKillips said Council endorsed the 'Active Transportation Plan' that was spearheaded by the Lorain County Health District. In conjunction with City staff they completed the plan and will start utilizing that plan to apply for grant funds. This is the first grant they are applying for. There will be 2 projects; 1.) Construction sidewalks along Middle Avenue near Colonial Oaks and Wood Street and where there are currently no sidewalks. 2.) Construction of sidewalks on the north side, on Rosealee and Randall and Hilliard by the new Northwood Campus. This will help align with some intersection improvements which will happen through OPWC projects at Hilliard & Rosealee. They are asking for \$400,000 which is the maximum amount. If the City is granted the funds they would be looking at construction around 2024-2025.

Mr. Oswald asked if the City has to come up with the money?

Engineer McKillips said anything over the \$400,000 would be 100% City cost.

Mr. Lipian thanked Engineer McKillips for the presentation.

He also thanked her for the time she spent with him along with Sarah Tilly from the Health Dept. and discussing the process of this grant application. The Safe Routes To School Grant and the Safety Travel Plan was supported by Council. He is heartened by the fact that sidewalks that are requested in this maximum grant request, are areas which did not previously have sidewalks.

He also asked about 'spot checking' of a couple spots that are just really egregiously bad, which are in the first ward to be included in this grant. He said he spoke with Jeremy Ordado from ODOT and he indicated that it makes the grant stronger if we include some areas of sidewalk repair. Mr. Lipian asked Engineer McKillips if those can be included?

Engineer McKillips said she has reached out to Mr. Ordado and he has requested a project map and an engineer's estimate. His decision will determine whether we go forward on this. Engineer McKillips is hopeful they can get that in within the budget.

Mrs. Simmons moved and Mr. Oswald seconded to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to submit an application and accept funds for the 'said' program.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

8. The matter of the 16th Street Water Line Replacement project.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips *[Funds for this project were appropriated at 2/7/22 Council Mtg.]*

Engineer McKillips said they are requesting to go out for bids for this project. Monies have been appropriated in the temporary budget. Requesting emergency clause so that they can get these projects bid out as soon as possible and under construction. They don't know what kind of supply chain issues they may run into. They involve OPWC resurfacing.

Mrs. Davis asked what section of 16th Street.

Engineer McKillips said it's the section starting at South Park, from the culvert (about mid-block), between Middle and East Ave. (From the culvert east towards East Ave.), this waterline will be in the tree lawn on the north side.

Mrs. Davis said there are not sidewalks in that area that goes to the park, is there a way they can get sidewalks there?

Mrs. Mitchell agreed, but not sure where they can find money for sidewalks.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Oswald seconded to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and award a contract for the 'said' project.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

9. The matter of the Cedar Street and 2nd Street Water Line Replacement project.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips *[Funds for this project were appropriated at 2/7/22 Council Mtg.]*

Engineer McKillips said this is the same thing, to authorize bids and a contract. This project limits are 2nd Street from East Ave. to Cedar and Cedar from 2nd Street to Broad. It's just around that curve area, the area that they're planning on paving.

Mr. Oswald asked about the paving of Cedar Street?

Engineer McKillips it will be an OPWC Project.

Mr. Oswald moved and Mr. Corbin seconded to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and award a contract for the 'said' project.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

10. The matter of the Oberlin-Elyria Road Water Line Replacement project.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips *[Funds for this project were appropriated at 2/7/22 Council Mtg.]*

Engineer McKillips said this is the same request to authorize for bids and a contract for the Water Line Replacement of Oberlin-Elyria water line project.

This one is from 16th Street to Middle Avenue down Oberlin-Elyria Road to the Railroad tracks by Rural King. This is a high price dollar amount because of the length.

Mr. Oswald moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and award a contract for the 'said' project.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

11. The matter of applying for and accepting a 2022 OEPA Recycle Grant for the purchase of a F-450 Truck, Chipper and Box Truck for Sanitation/Forestry Departments.

Referred By: Director Brubaker *[This matter will also go to the Finance Committee]*

Director Brubaker said this is the same grant we applied for and received last year and it allowed us to replace some older equipment at the Sanitation / Forestry Department. We have the opportunity to apply for it again this year. The cost last year was \$115,000 and the City's portion was \$20,000. We're getting a new F-450, new chipper and the box to go in the F-450 and will also use the truck with a plow in the winter. This will be a grant and there is a small match.

Mr. Oswald asked if we're adding another one or replacing one and do we have the personnel if we're adding one?

Dir. Brubaker said they are adding a truck and a box. And they are replacing the chipper. And we do have personnel that can be called in to utilize that equipment.

Dir Deery asked if they need emergency clause?

Dir Brubaker said yes due to grant application deadline. They will submit and find out in early May if get that.

Mr. Oswald moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept if offered the 'said' grant for the purchase for the 'said' equipment.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

12. The matter of applying for and accepting a 2022 NOPEC NEC Grant for the purchase of LED Lighting upgrades.

Referred By: Director Brubaker *[This matter will also go to the Finance Committee]*

Dir Brubaker said this won't have to be submitted until late March. It's a \$98,000 NOPEC Grant that we're getting and they would like to us it for LED Lighting upgrades in the Downtown area. There is no match.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept if offered the 'said' grant which will allow for LED Lighting upgrades.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

13. The matter of a 'Snow Ban' on Eastern Heights Boulevard.

Referred By: Councilperson Lipian

Councilman Lipian said he referred this because a resident brought this up to him and he thought it was a good idea. He's referring to 351.18 of the Elyria Codified Ordinances under the snow ordinance/snow emergency which stipulates that for snow in excess of four inches in an under 24 hour period, the Safety Service Director may institute an emergency and declare certain street do not have parallel parking in order to make room for the snow plows to clear the streets. He saw some issues where people parallel park on Eastern Heights and the snow didn't get removed and trash cans were dragged all the way into the snowbank in the middle of the street. It's become a hazardous situation especially given the schools so he is calling for the snow emergency, it would apply for all of Eastern Heights and only during times of that excess snow. He would not like this to pass as emergency or suspension of rules because he would like to create the 30-day opportunity for the citizens to speak about it if they wish. He discussed this with Dir Brubaker and agreed and also agreed that we make the entire street a 'snow-ban' street. Mr. Lipian said that he met with about 30 Eastern Heights residents and no one was against this and all were enthusiastic about it. One resident is present at this evening's meeting and would like to speak to the committee, Jimmy Weatherby.

Dir Brubaker said that he drove in the area, the street we are discussing. The original conversation was do we do both sections of Eastern Heights; East River to Garford and then Prospect to South Logan. It was decided to make all of Eastern Heights a 'snow-ban' street.

Law Dir Deery said it looks like we would be amending COD 351.18c which is the list of all the 'snow-ban' streets and we would add all of Eastern Heights.

Mr. Oswald asked if they have to come to council every time that they have a street that they want to add. He thinks a lot of the streets should be revisited. He realizes that we can't do a whole city ban, but there might be more areas that can be added.

Law Dir Deery said there is a separate ordinance, 351.17, which is removal of vehicles from streets during emergencies. This passed in 2016 and it is a City-wide ban. It gives the administration the authority to enforce this. It would be in the opinion of the mayor, if there is an actual or threatened local emergency, which includes excessive snowfall, then the mayor may require the removal of vehicles from all streets.

Chair Mitchell doesn't recommend adding streets, because someone thinks we should add that street. She would suggest ward council-members have conversations with their residents.

Dir Brubaker said the Safety Service and Street Department goes out and evaluates which streets should be 'snow-ban' street. Tonight is the first time that we've come to council to add a street. He said he did consider a City Wide 'snow-ban' with the last snow storm but when he spoke with the Mayor he reminded the Mayor about the areas that don't have anywhere to park. To add a street, they need to look at, if there's a main street that goes directly to a school, it should be considered.

Chair Mitchell said if anyone has a street to have a conversation about to contact Dir Brubaker.

Mr. Corbin said he received a call from 2 residents who endorse having that 'snow ban'. Resident who came to this meeting has been invited by Chair Mitchell to come to the podium.

Jamie Wetherbee, 136 Eastern Heights, Elyria. He said he contacted Mr. Lipian about a 'snow ban' after the January snow storm. He said there were numerous cars parked on the road that the plows couldn't even plow even one side of the road. The simple fact that there are schools in the immediate area and why there hadn't been a 'snow-ban' sooner. When he contacted Councilman Lipian with his concerns and that lot of residents don't shovel their sidewalks so there only half of a road to walk on and with traffic and busses it's dangerous.

Chair Mitchell thanked Mr. Wetherbee.

Director Brubaker thanked Councilman Lipian for already doing his homework prior to bringing this issue to his attention. As far as reviewing the snow ban list and adding other streets should be left up to the individual council people. And this request doesn't need to go sooner than 30 days because by the time this gets passed it will be later in March and it probably won't take effect until next winter season.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to authorize an ordinance authorizing the 'said' street to be declared a 'Snow-Ban Street'

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Oswald moved, seconded by Mr. Corbin to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:20 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary
ICMR