

The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee

held a meeting on **Wednesday, February 8th, 2023** beginning at 6:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Chair Mitchell, Davis, Simmons, Corbin and Oswald

OTHERS PRESENT: Asst Law Director Breunig, Safety Service Dir Lundy, Engineer McKillips, Water Team Leader Jacob, Water Dist. Operations Mgr. Rothgery, Council members; Lipian and Cerra

1. Approval of the Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes ~ January 11th, 2022

Motion made by Mr. Oswald and seconded by Mrs. Simmons to approve the 'said' meeting minutes.

2. The matter of applying for a \$10,000 Grant through The H2Ohio Initiative.

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

This matter will also go to Finance Committee on 2/13/23

Team Leader Jacob said he received a phone call in January to see if we wanted to apply for this grant. It's for \$10,000 through H2O Ohio for asset management equipment. They already submitted the application because the due date was January. The grant is for \$10,000 to purchase hydrant monitoring equipment for The Water Distribution Dept. They are hoping they will get this grant. They would ask for this to pass an emergency.

Chair Mitchell asked if there is a match for this grant?

Mr. Jacob said it is not a matching grant.

Mrs. Davis asked what the money will be used for?

Mr. Jacob said there is specific equipment that can be purchased with this grant money; pressure monitoring equipment for water hydrant.

Dir Breunig asked if the application was already completed?

Mr. Jacob said yes, they already applied because the deadline was in January.

Dir Breunig asked if they are looking for retroactive approval for this matter?

Mr. Jacob said, yes.

Mr. Oswald said so Mr. Jacob gets the part and who installs it.

Mr. Jacob said it's not a fixed piece, it can get moved from hydrant to hydrant.

Mr. Oswald moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept the 'said' grant.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of the purchase of a 2023 Case 580 Super N Backhoe and trading in a 2012 Super N and a 2021 Case 321 F Mini-loader.

Referred By: Water Dist. Operations Mgr. Rothgery

This matter will also go to Finance Committee on 2/13/23

Water Dist. Manager Rothgery said the current backhoe is 10 years old and is ready to be replaced. It's a tough time to get new equipment these days and the price of trade-ins is very expensive and we're in a great position to have a decent machine for a trade in which will bring down the cost.

The cost to purchase it is around \$140,000 and with the trade-in of the old backhoe and the mini loader, we will only have to pay around \$32,000 out of pocket. They don't use the mini loader and they have also gotten a track loader which has taken on all of the work that the two machines would do. We'll be getting \$75,000 in trade for this. It's a win because the trade-in values are so high.

Mr. Oswald asked who is paying for it and for how much out of pocket?

Manager Rothgery said funds will come out of Water Distribution 2023 permanent appropriations and it will be \$32,000. He is asking for emergency clause.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Oswald seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the purchase of the 'said' equipment.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of the purchase of a 2023 Kobelco mini excavator and trading in a 2015 Case CX55B.

Referred By: Water Dist. Operations Mgr. Rothgery

This matter will also go to Finance Committee on 2/13/23

Mr. Rothgery said this is similar to the last item. This is 2015 case is the first mini excavator that the City has owned and they put a ton of hours. At this point it's a great trade-in toward the new machine. Between the trade-in price and the actual price of the new Kobelco we'll be out \$58,000 out of pocket.

Mr. Davis asked if these are purchased from State Purchasing?

Mr. Rothgery said yes.

Mr. Oswald asked if in the budget?

Mr. Rothgery said yes.

Mrs. Simmons moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the purchase of the 'said' equipment.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of advertising for bids and entering into a contract for Sludge Disposal for the WWPC Plant.

Referred By: Superintendent Korzan

This matter will also go to Finance Committee on 2/13/23

Superintendent Korzan was not in attendance and Chair Mitchell said this is basically the same thing that they did for Water Pumping that we're doing for Wastewater.

Dir Breunig said they do this every year, this has to be bid out every year and enter into these contracts. We have to keep the water treatment plant moving just like we do with the water pumping plant.

Mr. Oswald moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the 'said' contract.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of a Grant Application for the 'Safe Routes to School' program.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

This matter will also go to Finance Committee on 2/13/23

Engineer McKillips said they would like to apply for this grant which is due March 4th. They did apply for this grant last year, but did not get any funding. They are looking at utilizing last years application with modifications. The basis as far as number of sidewalks and locations will remain the same. They have a team meeting scheduled for Friday, February 10th to go over the scope of work with ODOT to make sure that everything is on tract.

There are a few changes from last year's program; the state increased the funding to \$500,000 from \$400,000. It's a 100% grant. They've added high school areas for locations for the work.

Chair Mitchell asked if this is City wide?

Engineer said it is City wide as long as it's in a certain radius of a qualifying school. Last year the application involved areas around Hamilton, Eastern Heights and Northwood. Will be looking at those same areas and possibly around the high school.

Mr. Oswald said he mentioned this with the sidewalk program; concrete leveling? It's a bang for a buck, is that something that can be done with this program?

Engineer McKillips said leveling is a possibility. It's less expensive in the right conditions.

Chair Mitchell said the leveling would be more difficult in the older areas of the City where the trees have pushed the sidewalks up.

Mr. Oswald asked if there is a tree that is causing the problem, does that fall within that grant money?

Engineer McKillips said they did include tree removal as part of that funding. That will be discussed on Friday with ODOT. If it's allowed, they will include that in the grant application, unless it would deter from the scoring.

Mrs. Davis said the new Westwood, which is grades K thru 8th grade, she sees kids walking in the street because there are no sidewalks.

Chair Mitchell said that area is in the township.

Mrs. Davis said that it's our school. The kids live in the city and they walk to school and we can't provide sidewalks for them? Along Lake Ave from Emerson to the cemetery and to Adelbert, there are no sidewalks and those are the City's kids.

Chair Mitchell said when she went to West years ago there were no sidewalks. Elyria West and Westwood are actually in Elyria Township. We could ask for sidewalks, but we can't make them.

Mr. Cerra asked how far out from the schools does this project go and can it be used around the Catholic schools and constellation schools?

Engineer McKillips said it can be used around Catholic schools. She's not sure about the Charter schools. It's up to one mile out, however, for scoring purposes they want to keep the work within a quarter mile of the schools.

Mr. Lipian said he likes the idea of concrete leveling and he wondered if we could examine parts of the request where there aren't as many trees and see what that would save the City.

Mrs. Simmons moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply and accept funds for the 'said' program to pass as emergency clause.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of authorizing certain structures to remain in right-of-way during the Cleveland Street reconstruction project.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

Engineer McKillips said this is housekeeping for this project because it involves Federal Funds. The right of way needs to be cleared. There has to be a temporary easement for any work being done on private property. This issue is encroachments, down the Cleveland Street corridor there are several businesses that have signs that hang out over the right-of-way line. They won't impede construction but to be compliant with Federal regulations we need to approve these encroachments and we'll provide a permit to each business so they are in compliant with the rules.

Dir Breunig asked when are we issuing permits to these, do we have an existing permit structure in place in our ordinances, what are we specifically offering in our legislation? Are we saying this list of businesses are authorized to leave these encroachments there during construction?

Engineer McKillips said what she's used in the past is a form that is from ODOT. It's a permit to allow, (whether it's a rock or a sign or whatever) to remain within the right-of-way. The ordinance will state that we are okay with these items remaining within the right-of-way during construction.

Dir Breunig said when he thinks of a permitting process, he's thinking of issuing a waiver from a specific codified ordinance section or if it's ODOT it's a State Law that's applicable that we're saying we're authorizing a variance from these sections of the applicable code. He wants to make sure that whatever we do is effective and protects the property owners.

Mr. Oswald asked for examples.

Engineer McKillips said let's say it's a business which has a driveway off Cleveland Street and at the curb there is a sign that says enter. That would be considered in the right of way but as long as long that it's not impacting the construction it's allowed to stay. Another example would be businesses that have storefronts right up along the sidewalk. If they have a sign sticking out from the face of their building so that you can see the business name, chances are that sign is hanging out over the right-of-way line.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Oswald seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the 'said' right-of-way encroachment request for the Cleveland Street project.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

8. The matter of continued discussion of 2023 Street Resurfacing.

Referred By: Chair Mitchell

Engineer McKillips began this discussion saying the Issue Six dollar amount for the 2023 Streets is 1.9 million dollars which is about \$271,000 per ward. She has a list for a couple wards completed. They will finalize the estimates on the road sections that are on the lists. If there are other streets that need to be added, be sure to do so as soon as possible. There may be opportunities to phase projects and she's been speaking with Councilman Lipian that Sugar Lane may be one of those streets that we may want to do in phases because of the overall cost. The list of streets that are in the peach color were the one recommended by the City Street Department. Other streets on the list were from the Ward representatives and also from the ride-a-longs. If any streets need to be added or to just get a cost, just ask.

Chair Mitchell said there is 1.9 million dollars which comes to \$271,000 per ward and that does not go far. We need to make good use of these dollars. She would like to add Murray Ridge, Lowell St to Russia Road, which she has already mentioned, it goes through the township and the county. Perhaps the City can work with NOACA, like we did the Lowell Street Bridge.

Engineer McKillips said that we will have to do a joint project with the County and or the Township. They may be able to apply for some grants or OPWC funds.

Mr. Oswald said he spoke to Mr. Forthofer about West River Rd., the area of the mall and Home Depot. It's a major road which may need to be done in sections, it's in Ward 2. Can they piece it out so that we don't get hit all at one time?

Engineer McKillips said they could do that street in phases, different sections at a time. We could go through the street and pulled out the absolute worst sections and do those now and then come back next year to finish. It would be more cost effective to do 200 feet or 500 feet section at a time.

Chair Mitchell asked Finance Dir if we can get more than the \$1.9 million dollars?

Dir Pileski said there may be a little more to appropriate in Issue 6. There is still a wish list that the administration is going through and he'll let everyone know if there is anything left over after that.

Mr. Oswald said the worst part on West River is at the intersection of Griswold Rd. He wondered if that can be looked at.

Chair Mitchell thought maybe we can ask the county to fix it since they're buying the Mall.

Mrs. Davis said Meadowfield Ct. is concrete and we know concrete is thru the roof in cost and the areas that need to be fixed are patch areas where they cut out parts of the road and they fix it that way. She also agreed about the area of Griswold & West River is bad. She also had a road to add; Bell Ave. from Rublin Court to West River. Mrs. Davis would rather use asphalt for the patching of certain areas instead of concrete since concrete is so expensive.

Mrs. Simmons asked about the full depth and the regular concrete, which one is more expensive?

Engineer McKillips said if it's a concrete street, we're doing full depth concrete repairs and it would be the same as in cases of it being concrete unless the concrete isn't really bad and we could put an asphalt overlay on it. She brought up State Street which would be full depth concrete re-patching. They would cut out the joints and repour full depth which means eight inches of concrete.

Mr. Lipian said he constructed a google spreadsheet for residents to fill out to vote on which streets they wanted done. It's interesting that it averaged between three answers about somewhere shy of 30% wanted to see South Abbe done. When he drove South Abbe, it looks like it's the 1800 block of South Abbe and that creeps into the 3rd Ward and he wondered if Councilman Corbin might want to look at. He seconds the thoughts of Councilwoman Davis regarding patchwork. He thought that might work at the intersection of Cornell and Fairlawn. There's a concrete area marked with orange which causes the concrete to slope down and make a bump in the road while you're driving. It's not cracked, it just the elevation that has to be evened out.

Mr. Corbin said he discussed some of the through streets with Mr. Lipian. He said that he has recorded every phone call he has gotten since he's been on Council. A lot of them are complaints of speeders and road work along Chestnut Ridge from Bender to East River through Ward 3. That is a through road, and residential road like Abbe Road. He was wondering if there is any other source for the throughs. Is there anything that can be done?

Engineer McKillips said they did apply for State Funding through Ohio Public Works Commission and they don't know which streets will get funded yet. This is the list of streets that were applied for; South Abbe (University to Chestnut Ridge), Chestnut Ridge (Rt 57 to Stillwater), West River (57 to Furnace). For the larger streets which would take a large chunk of the street budget are the streets that the Engineering Dept tries to get Grant funding for. But the Grant Funds were limited to the amount we could receive on an annual basis. And those funds are competitive. There is also a match for those Grant Funds and that match usually comes out of muni motor fund.

Mr. Oswald stated that West River from Furnace to Rt 57 has had a lot of underground work done and it was paved and still a debacle and he still sees crews there recently marking off. Are there issues in the infrastructure?

Engineer McKillips said there is a sewer that needs to be repaired in that section between Rt 57 and Furnace. That section received a new water line a few years ago and we didn't pave it because we knew we had the sewer issue. That sewer will be repaired soon and we can hope we'll get funding for that road.

Mr. Lipian said there was a small section of Garford that that didn't get done when the street was repaved last year. He said there are some other small patches at Miami & Colgate and Sherman to Harvard and Cornell gets a lot of traffic now, taking kids to the new K-8 Eastern Heights School.

Chair Mitchell reminded that we only get so much money per ward which is why we want to do the worst sections first and we want to stretch the money out. We've had great weather and maybe we can get the streets done sooner. At the next meeting we can have ranking and costs and make the determination of what streets to choose. She said the ride-a-long with Mr. Forthofer was so helpful. She said she thought she knew and understood how the streets and how the paving process works and riding along with him, she didn't realize she didn't know anything. She appreciated it. One thing Mr. Forthofer stressed is that we need to get back to crack sealing, she'd like to see a referral for that.

Mr. Cerra asked if Sandalwood can be added to his list. And he would like to take off Longfellow for the time being. He'll wait until the next time and after all the construction is completed in the St. Jude area.

**Mr. Oswald moved to adjourn the Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee Meeting and that motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis.
The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant

/CMR