

The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee

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

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

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS: Cerra, Callahan

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Director Derry, Safety Service Dir Lundy, Mayor Whitfield, Engineer McKillips, Engineer Forthofer, Waste Water Supt Korzan, Parks Dir Reardon Council members; Lipian and Cerra

1. Approval of the Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes ~ February 8th, 2022

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

MOTION CARRIED

2. The matter of adding an additional Baseball Field to South Park.

Referred By: Parks Director Reardon

Parks Dir Reardon said this will be a field which will butt up to the one that is already there. This is an additional field based on feedback from the South T-ball club. They're expanding their numbers. The funds for this project has already been appropriated, so it needs to go out to bid. Part of the monies are CDBG and part is Issue 6 funds.

Mrs. Davis asked what is the parking losing by adding this field?

Dir Reardon said there is nothing there now, it's just green space.

Aric Bowens is involved with the South Park Program and came up to the microphone to speak on South Park.

Aric Bowens, 159 Taft Ave., Elyria, here representing Elyria South Baseball Club. They will be entering their third season. First season they had over 80 participants and they raised over \$12,000.00 for the community to make sure that every child had a baseball glove. They had over 120 participants in the second year with a total of 12 teams. This year they be going to 15 teams and add two kid pitch and softball. They had issues with the field use so they are pleased that the second field will be added. They have received support from the community and have had quite a few folks from their organization supporting them. They are pleased for the opportunity to expand and grow and he thanked the committee.

Mr. Cerra asked what is going on with the new fields at Little League North?

Dir Reardon said those fields are being utilized. She's been in contact with Little League East and they are combined with North and they use those fields as an overflow when they need space for practices. That field is an option to be used by other groups, also.

Mr. Cerra, who is a former president of Little League North, he appreciates what Mr. Bowens is doing.

Mr. Bowen appreciates Mr. Cerra's words. He said Little League North is a transportation issue for a lot their kids since a lot of them live in the neighborhood of south park which is good for the kids that can walk there.

Mrs. Simmons also thanked Mr. Bowens and his staff for all they do for the 5th ward.

Mr. Bowens said they will be having baseball games at West Park since it's bigger and there is more parking.

Mayor Whitfield said he is here for support for these organizations.

Chair Mitchell thanked everyone for being here this evening.

Mrs. Simmons moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for 'said' project.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of creating a Multi-Purpose Field at South Park to better utilize certain programs.

Referred By: Parks Director Reardon

Dir Reardon said this is a project that's a rollover from last year which did not get out to bid. The CDBG money is there and they just need to get it out to bid. Its green space being used by mini Pioneers. There are some drainage issues that need to be fixed and leveled. It will be a multipurpose field and will be used for many different things.

Mrs. Simmons moved and Mr. Oswald seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for 'said' project.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of adding a parking lot and walkway at Washington Village Park.

Referred By: Parks Director Reardon

Dir Reardon said this is the park off of Fowl Road where there are new homes being built and a walkway was needed as well as a small parking lot. They rec'd a grant for this in the amount of \$38,388, it's a reimbursable grant and the monies have been appropriated and we'll get half of that back and we're looking to go out for bid.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for 'said' project.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter the Rail Industry and Hazardous Materials.

Referred By: T Callahan-At Large, D Mitchell-Ward 6, B Davis-Ward 2

Mr. Callahan thanked Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Davis for co-sponsoring this referral. As we know about the tragic train derailment in East Palestine last month. Local first responders were not aware of chemicals and hazardous materials that were going through their town. This is why they are asking for a resolution asking railroad companies to notify local first responders as to when chemicals and hazardous materials will be transported through Elyria and surrounding communities. This is a reasonable request to the railroad companies, it's basic and simple and could even be in the form of a text message. It's about safety. If firefighters and first responders had known ahead of time that the train coming through their town had chemicals on it, their job would have been easier. So many people were exposed to those chemicals and that is tragic. He hopes everyone will support this resolution. Governor Dewine and Senators Brown and Vance are asking the question, why aren't we notified of these things.

Chair Mitchell asked Supt Korzan to speak on the topic.

Mr. Korzan said this is a sidebar. His office rec'd an email from Governor DeWine's office today stating that Norfolk and Southern is looking to set up a training center in Ohio for first responders to train how to approach rail derailments and other type of incidents. They don't have a location as yet. They will start training at the Bellevue location on March 22nd. He forwarded the email to Chief Pronesti and the Clerk's office.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to recommend a resolution in support of asking railroad companies to notify local first responders as to when chemicals and hazardous materials will be transported through Elyria and surrounding areas.
MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of continued discussion of the 2023 Street Resurfacing.

Referred By: Chair Mitchell

Chair Mitchell said the resident streets is an important part of being a ward councilperson. This year's budget is 2 million dollars.

Engineer McKillips said the draft list has been compiled from suggestions from the ride-alongs and recommendations from the Street Dept. Those streets are listed on the spread sheet and estimates have been calculated to give an idea of the costs. The options are mill & fill with asphalt or concrete repairs. The total for 7 wards is 4.3 million dollars. That list will be shortened so it will fit within the budget of 2 million dollars, which is approximately \$280,000 per ward. If additional funds get allocated that will help to do more.

Chair Mitchell thanked Mr. Forthofer, the ride-a-longs were extremely helpful. She will go ward by ward for each council member to go over their list of streets.
Ward 1 (not in attendance)

Ward 2 – Mrs. Davis went over the streets that she is considering in her ward. Before she started with her streets, she asked if patches of Meadowfield Ct can be done 'in-house'?

Engineer McKillips said there is a lot of concrete that needs to be cut out and poured. Mrs. Davis asked if the section from the cul-de-sac out to the street will now be asphalt? Engineer McKillips said yes, that is correct.

Mrs. Davis asked if the mall can fix David Drive because of all the trucks that drive on that street to get to the parking lot of the mall to park their trucks.

Engineer McKillips said David Dr is the City right-of-way and we are responsible for it. She explained how there may be concrete repairs if the concrete is good enough to use as a base for the asphalt overlay.

Mrs. Davis continued listing her list of streets. There was a suggestion of asking whoever owns the mall now if they would partner to help resurface West River.

Ward 3 – Mr. Corbin said he also wanted to Thank Mr. Forthofer, he learned a lot, Bill was very informative and explained everything. He said his current list adds up to \$239,000.

He hasn't really received any calls about street repairs. He has gotten calls about pothole and he said the Street Dept has done a great job with fixing them.

Ward 4 – Mr. Oswald said that many of his streets are concrete and he asked Mr. Forthofer on how they were going to fix Pepperdine, whether they were going to do it in concrete or strip it and cover with blacktop.

Mr. Forthofer said there are some longitudinal cracks in the street and cracks going the other direction. They took into consideration all of the cracks and they will cut it up and get it put back together.

Mr. Oswald asked if he could shave that number down by doing some of the chunks and crack-fill the other ones Mr. Forthofer was talking about. He asked if that's a possibility for Winthrop also?

Mr. Forthofer said they can absolutely look into that.

Ward 5 – Mrs. Simmons said she likes to think more money will be available for the streets. We're rolling out the beautification program and the streets are bad. She asked why they are putting concrete on Holly Lane; shouldn't it be asphalt? She needs more money. And her residents have to realize that every street can't get done. Her list totals \$486,000 and it's going to be hard to decide which ones to do and not to do.

Chair Mitchell thanked everyone for voting for Issue 6 and they are doing what they said they would do by getting residential streets done.

Mr. Forthofer reminded everyone, that if they just resurface the streets and there's concrete underneath, and even if they're going to do asphalt overlay, they have to go thru the process and fix the bad concrete joints first because of reflective cracking. So, we have to do concrete repairs first before we do the asphalt overlay. In the long run, the concrete repairs will pay off. On Holly Lane, we could pick a section near the church and then revisit it next year.

Ward 7 – Mr. Cerra said he has a referral in for an additional million dollars of ARPA Funds for streets. Beginning in 2016 through this cycle, about 11 million dollars of Issue 6 dollars have been spent on street resurfacing. That's just great and we've done what we told the residents we would do. Mr. Cerra listed his streets.

Ward 6 – Chair Mitchell listed her streets.

The matter of the 2023 Street Resurfacing will continue at the next Utilities Meeting.

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