

The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee

held a meeting on **Thursday, February 22nd, 2024** at 6:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mitchell, Stewart, Armstrong, Davis, Cerra, Oswald, Stewart, Siwierka

OTHERS PRESENT: Safety Service Dir Pyanowski, Law Dir Deery, Engineer Schneider, WWPC Supt Shayne Stewart

1. Approval of the February 7th, 2024 Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Oswald to approve the 'said' meeting minutes.

2. The matter of entering into an agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

Engineer Schneider said this is for their GIS Software that they are looking to enter into another 3-year contract for. It powers a lot of things in the Engineer's Office and powers the maps that the Engineer's Dept uses on a daily basis. There are also maps on the City Website that residents can utilize to look up lead service lines and to see the current projects out there.

The total contract price is \$72,600; \$23,400 for '24, \$24,200 for '25 and \$25,000 for '26.

Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Oswald to authorize the Mayor to enter into the 'said' three-year agreement with ESRI. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

(this matter was also passed by Finance Committee on Feb. 26th)

3. The matter of modifications to the City's Wastewater Facility Planning Area.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

Engineer Schneider said they received a request from LORCO to modify our FPA, the sewer area that is established through NOACA. It's the area that the City can install sewers and there is a house on Castleton Lane in Eaton Township out of our FPA and place into their FPA. There have been issues for us modifying our FPA unless we're getting something for what we were giving. This is one house and we were not given a reason why. We are neutral on this, since it's only one house. If it was a large area we would be prone to be against this. Once we service the area, it helps to keep the rates down.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if this house needs sewer, but they don't have city water, is that correct?

Engineer Schneider said that is correct, it's Rural Water. He said there are a number of subdivisions that actually have Lorain County Rural Water and Elyria sewers.

Some of those subdivisions are off Indian Hollow, River Run off Middle Ave and connects over to Harvest Way, as well as Four Seasons, Fieldstone.

Mrs. Siwierka said she thinks we need to be cautious.

Law Dir Deery asked for clarification that the parcel in questions tonight is part of a greater area that is already in our Planning Area? These would be due for us to provide sewer, what this parcel, through NOACA's asking is basically to be released from that so that we would not be providing them sewer. This is one parcel and we should bear in mind others could become a part of this in the future. When these types of matters have gone before council, it's been a greater geographic area and there's been discussion of swaps and that sort of things that have come into play, so that we're not actually losing anything. This is potentially a great revenue source for the City.

Engineer Schneider said once they change FPA they are forever.

Mr. Stewart asked if it would probably be a sewer tied into Rt 82 and then running down Castleton Road?

Engineer Schneider said LORCO has some sort of collection system on Rt 82. They don't know what is mandatory requiring this property owner to tie into anything.

Motion made by Mr. Stewart and second by Mrs. Davis to authorize an ordinance for the 'said' modification to the 'said' FPA, emergency clause requested.
MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of the purchase of a new Aeration Blower Variable Frequency Drive for the Wastewater Plant.

Referred By: Supt. Shayne Stewart

WWPC Supt. Stewart said this is for the purchase of a new variable frequency drive for the aeration blower number one. The current one is 30 years old and has been rehabbed a few times and it has now failed. And it's too costly to have it fixed and a lot of the parts are not available. The plant electricians will be installing it, will save on that part of the project. The plant has four blowers. Two of them do not run on a VFD which controls the speed of the motor and those are only used in emergencies. The other two, which are #1 and #2, #1 being the one that doesn't work and #2 was replaced two years ago.

Mrs. Davis said she sees the money is coming from engineering fund?

Supt Stewart said that is correct. Before they created their Capital budget, they didn't plan on this, they were hoping it would last a few more years. After he spoke with Engineer McKillips, they had monies appropriated to cover this. This will be a specialized purchase because there is only one company who offers these.

Motion made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize an ordinance for the purchase of the 'said' equipment, emergency clause requested.
MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of entering into a contract with Buckeye Power Sales for the Wastewater Plant.

Referred By: Supt. Shayne Stewart

WWPC Supt. Stewart said this is something that will be beneficial in the long run. They were required, about 4 or 5 years ago, that all of the lift stations had to have backup power generators. As they get more of these generators and the more technologically advanced they become, they are only able to service certain parts of them. As important as they are, it makes sense to go with Buckeye Power Sales because they're familiar with the City's equipment. They are able to give us a reduced emergency call callout price, which is beneficial because when the generators are needed it's usually when there is a power outage. The contract with Buckeye Power Sales is a 3-year contract which will bill annually and there is an option to cancel the contract at any time.

Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Stewart to authorize an ordinance for a three-year contract for back-up generators for the WWPC Plant.
MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of Discussion of 2024 Street Resurfacing.

Referred By: Engineers McKillips and Schneider and Chair Mitchell

Chair Mitchell said it's getting late in the season and we need to start this discussion and we need to work with engineering to see what streets can be done.

Engineer Schneider said they had asked for 1.7 million in the budget for residential street resurfacing this year. That amount will give each ward approximately \$243,000. A list of streets has been passed out for everyone's review and he asked if any ward members have additional streets to be added to get those to engineering as soon as possible. Rankings were removed from this list because they were a few years old. They will update the rankings as soon as possible. And they are hoping to have the preliminary dollars for each of the streets on this list.

Chair Mitchell said that Mr. Forthofer has again agreed to take anyone on ride-a-longs in their wards. That was very helpful last year. Those ride-a-longs have to be done by March 11th. She is recommending that everyone go out in their ward and look at the streets and rank them as good as you can, from 1 to 4 with 1 being the worst. When you do your ride-a-long, Mr. Forthofer can point out some things that you may have missed.

Mr. Oswald said it was helpful to use the ward maps that were passed out by Engineering a few weeks ago.

Mr. Cerra asked about Poplar St., (closer to behind Blue Sky), where there is a watermain being replaced and it's going through the sidewalk and not the street now?

Engineer Schneider said the watermain will most likely be on the west side of the road along Rt 57 and push the services across. The intent was to resurface that road, Poplar St from White Oak to Wesley. He explained that the list he passed out is just showing what streets need to be looked at and ranked. He thinks the intent was to do the resurfacing with the watermain and not to include it in this year's budget until the watermain is completed. They are looking to bid that job out the first half of this year so it may be done in late summer or early fall and then still have time to resurface it this year.

Mrs. Siwierka asked about the OPWC and ODOT projects. Her concern was S Abbe, because part of it is in Ward 3 and it's listed as all in one. And she asked if that section before the church and University will be done with these other programs?

Engineer Schneider said they applied for the OPWC projects and there are three that appear to be going forward and one on the unfunded list and really close to being funded, if they get more money. Abbe Rd S from E Broad St to University is scheduled to be done this year. OPWC funds don't come out until July, so nothing can be done before that. Another one is Furnace, Lake Ave to West River and also Midway Blvd. from Tilletson to West River. If more money goes into OPWC fund, the section of West River from 57 to Furnace St was high on that list, but it's whether or not we get that funding. The other one applied for was Leona from Midway and Griswold. Also, the E Broad St project which is under construction as well as Cleveland St. Another street that the County is spearheading is West Ridge, Elyria owns a small section of it and the County applied for OPWC funds for all of that so the City's portion is covered. Murray Ridge is scheduled next year with NOACA funds, it's a 80/20 split and we'll have the 20%, which we could apply to OPWC for that 20% or cover it ourselves. Another one is 2nd St from East Ave to West Ave. Abbe Road from 57 north to Sheffield limit thru ODOT and is scheduled for two or three year out, thru Urban Paving.

Mrs. Siwierka asked about some other streets in her ward and then she asked about a number of catch basins that have been repaired on concrete streets that are in disrepair. Instead of rebuilding them completely with concrete, they used asphalt and now they're sinking. Could that be part of this or is that a separate project?

Engineer Schneider said they do rebuild catch basins as part of the emergency sanitary storm sewer project contract. Wastewater does a lot of repairs to catch basins. They are preparing to do some projects at Chestnut Commons to seal it and restripe those areas, but those projects aren't included in the street resurfacing. He said if anyone has a list of areas that are in question, they can go out and look at them and coordinate with Wastewater to see if they have the manpower to take care of them. Sometimes it's what's going on underneath them and sometimes they have to be reconstructed.

Mr. Oswald asked if there will be any more money for streets, beside the 1.7 million?

Chair Mitchell said they are grateful for the 1.7 and she will ask Mayor Brubaker if he can find more money.

Mr. Stewart asked if there is any type of infrastructure or water line projects scheduled for some of these streets, possibly in the master plan?

Engineer Schneider said there are a lot of water lines that need to be replaced. If we resurface a road that needs a water line, they would do the resurfacing first because it will take a long time to catch up to a lot of these water mains and then come back to those streets later. There are some areas that may be part of the long-term control plan and maybe hold-off and do the whole project at one time. Or move some things up in the long-term control plan schedule and address some of those concerns. The big one which impacts the roads is the East Side Relief Sewer, which is the deep sewer project going thru the City.

They have a 10-year period to do certain roads in the Eastern Heights area as well as the St. Jude area, those were built in as part of the negotiations with Ohio and Federal EPA for flexibility in the overall schedule.

Mr. Stewart asked about Abbe Road from Rt 57 heading northbound where the waterline crossing over on some of those streets from west side of the road and crossing over in the area of Hartford, there is a depression going through, is that going to be considered to be fixed in 2025? There's a lot of traffic and the depressions are getting deeper and deeper.

Mr. Oswald said he had a conversation with Mr. Forthofer and he found out what infrastructure projects are going on. Example is the north entrance to Overbrook where there will be a new lift station. If it's not in the sidewalk and if it's in the street, maybe there will be a new street?

Chair Mitchell asked about the inner divider of the whole stretch of Bullocks Parkway is crumbling, can that be repaired and not come out of the streets budget? She asked Engineer Schneider if they can talk about it. She also said Murray Ridge is absolutely horrible from Lowell Street to Infirmary and she gets complaints all the time. If we're not going to totally do it, what can they do?

Engineer Schneider said the city limits do not go all the way to Infirmary Road. There are areas on Murray Ridge that are in the Township as well. The Township reached out to us hoping to be a part of the Urban Paving portion that NOACA had scheduled. One of the things we have to finalize is that scope of the limits.

Chair Mitchell asked if there is a way we can ask NOACA to not do West Ridge and replace it with Murray Ridge at this time?

Engineer Schneider said the window of time to be able to ask that has come and gone. Most of these projects that go thru NOACA take 4 to 5 years minimum to get to the point that we're at.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if they are finished with the lead line replacement project over there on West River and will that now be paved? And are there other major roadways where lead is getting replaced?

Engineer Schneider said that is not an Engineering project but he believes the patches that are out there are temporary.

Mrs. Siwierka said that piece of it would be important for wards 1, 2 and 5, the older parts of town where there are lead service lines.

Engineer Schneider said that is also for water line projects but we're typically not in the road for those because we have to stay 10 feet away from the sanitary and storm sewer, so, it's usually closer to the sidewalk or tree lawn. They don't dig across the road except when they're making the final tie-ins to the main.

Surfaces are pushed across the road so it's trenchless, so there are no bumps. And if the road is resurfaced it wouldn't be disturbed too much when it comes to those projects. Sewer projects are a little different because most sewers are in the road, so those are important when it comes to road conditions and making sure it times up with those infrastructure projects.

Chair Mitchell thanked Mr. Schneider. She suggested everyone take a ride in your ward and make a note of the streets that you would like to get done and then schedule with Mr. Forthofer as soon as possible, before March 11th.

Chair Mitchell said it looks like each ward will be getting \$243,000. And we'll continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Davis moved to adjourn the Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee Meeting and that motion was seconded by Mr. Oswald.

MOTION CARRIES

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

The next Utilities Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6th, 2024 at 6:00

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant*