

# **The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee**

held a meeting on **Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024** at 6:00 P.M.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Mitchell, Stewart, Armstrong, Davis

Other Councilmembers present:

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Safety Service Dir Pyanowski, Law Dir Deery,  
Parks Dir Reardon

## **1. Approval of the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Moved by Mr. Oswald and second by Mr. Armstrong to approved the above minutes.

## **2. The matter of advertising for bids and entering into a contract for Tree Service for the City.**

Referred By: Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski

Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski said the City has an on-going tree service that is renewed every two years. We have a forestry service but this is for trees that are larger than our crews can handle or maybe different projects where multiple trees have to be taken down and also for emergency tree removal. This is ongoing and it needs to be bid out. This was supposed to have been done at the end of last year, so we do need it to pass as an emergency.

Mrs. Davis asked if there is a dollar figure?

Dir Pyanowski said no, there is not a dollar amount at this point, it's just for it to get bid out for the work and to get pricing.

Chair Mitchell said recently she worked with the forestry director, Scott Hennigan on removing a tree on tree from a resident's yard and Mr. Hennigan was a pleasure to work with. He was very helpful and he got it done.

Dir Pyanowski agrees, he said our forestry folks are very responsive, Scott does a nice job at leading the team. This contract is for the jobs that we just handle in-house.

Mr. Stewart asked if the funds are coming out of the 2016 ½ percent income tax fund?

Dir Pyanowski said he didn't know what account that comes out of.

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis, second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for tree service.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

## **3. The matter of rescinding Ordinance 2017-126 and entering into a new Water Purchase Agreement with Northern Ohio Rural Water.**

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

Law Dir Deery said Dir Breunig has been in discussion with Legal Counsel and Water Team Leader Jacob for this and they're looking to simplify the billing procedure. Currently they have a multi-tier system and want to simply that to a single tier system which will benefit the City. Elyria has been selling water to Northern Ohio Rural Water for many years and we will continue to do that.

**Motion made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mrs. Davis to authorize the Mayor to enter into 'said' water agreement.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**4. The matter of advertising for bids and entering into a contract for parking lot paving at Finwood Estate, Abbe Road Park and West Park.**

Referred By: Parks Dir Reardon

Dir Reardon said this are project to be done as part of the master plan and 2016 ½ percent monies. There are 2 sections that need paving at West; the lot off of Clemens, which is currently gravel and the area in front of the maintenance building which goes around the corner and in front of the pickle ball court. Abbe Road park needs to be completely paved and Finwood is overdue for paving.

Mr. Oswald asked about the entrance road into Finwood, which is very narrow. Is there a possibility that could be widened?

Dir Reardon said the plans are not finalized with Engineering yet, but, that is the idea to widen that as much as they can, there's not a lot of room, but they will do what they can.

Mr. Armstrong asked about the East River Parking lot?

Dir Reardon said that is not coming out of 2016 ½ percent income tax money, so that is not part of this. It's here understanding that will be completely redone.

Dir Pyanowski said they will completely redo that parking lot. That have a quote which they are committed to, but it will be a different source of funds and it doesn't even have to come to Council for approval so they'll moving forward with that this year.

Mr. Stewart asked if Finwood and the Abbe Road park will be completely resurfaced, will the old actually be removed?

Dir Reardon said there will be parts that will be completely removed and redone at Finwood. And Abbe Road park is going to be a complete redo. There used to be a path that led from Abbe Road to the parking lot and is not longer there, so they will reestablish that walkway. They will also add some drainage out passed the playground because there is a lot of water in between the parking lot and the playground. Engineering has a plan to run drainage to help keep that area dry. And they are going to extend the parking lot a little bit.

Chair Mitchell asked if they will expand the parking lot at West Park?

Dir Reardon said the property line is right to the west, so they cannot expand it in that direction but will expand it toward the trail.

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis, second by Mr. Stewart to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for 'said' projects, emergency clause.**  
**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**5. The matter of advertising for bids and entering into a contract for repairs of beams at the North Park Ice Arena.**

Referred By: Parks Dir Reardon

Dir Reardon said the Ice Rink is open air and they get a lot of different weather in it. There are some rust spots and holes in some of the beams. These repairs are minor, they will repair and also paint the beams.

Mr. Oswald asked if they are steel beams? Dir Reardon said yes.

**Motion made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mrs. Davis to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for 'said' project, emergency clause.**  
**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**6. The matter of entering into a contract for the addition of a South Park Baseball Field.**

Referred By: Parks Dir Reardon

Dir Reardon said this baseball field will be in a similar place as to where they are at the other parks. Outfields will line up against each other based on how the plans are. Some of this will be paid from 2023 CDBG money and some 2016 ½ percent income tax fund. South T-ball has really expanded, they are now called the Athletic Club and they are using fields at both South and West and they are looking for more fields. This will definitely be used and will share the cost with CDBG money.

Chair Mitchell said they have done a lot with that program. She asked about the parking, that there is not a lot of parking at South. Are there plans to expand it?

Dir Reardon said that the Master Plan has future development at South and possibly expanding that parking lot which is near the fields, it's not that big, but, there is some room to expand and possibly along where the football area is.

Mr. Armstrong asked if trees will have to be removed for the new parking lot? Dir Reardon said as the plan stands now, there may be one tree that will need to be removed, but no others.

Mr. Stewart asked if we do the engineering for this project in house?  
Dir Reardon said no, they had someone do the engineering for the field.

**Motion made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for 'said' project, emergency clause.  
MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**7. The matter of advertising for bids and entering into a contract for the development of the West Ave Pocket Park located at 1504 West Ave.**

Referred By: Parks Dir Reardon

Dir Reardon said there has been a lot of work done here with the 'Leaders of Today'. They actually brought this to the City about 2 years ago. They are now able to move forward to develop it into what was suggested. They are ready to start the work on this once the contractor is chosen.

Mrs. Davis asked if the garden that is next to it, part of this park?  
Dir Reardon said no, that is not our property. The City's property line is a small parcel. That garden is on library property.

Mr. Stewart said the conceptual drawings showed the garden and the Farmers Market and he asked if that will become part of the City property?

Law Dir Deery said that small square parcel that is catty corner across from the former Catholic Church, which is a non-denominational church is the future site declared a Park Property. The property that goes along West Ave south is property that was purchased by John Viard and there is a project with Lorain County Community Action Agency. The idea would be that it would be a Year-Round Produce Market and would be a companion to what was envisioned to be at this park space.

Dir Pyanowski said the idea is that while those parcels will be separately owned they will complement and support each other for the good of the area and the city.

Mr. Armstrong asked what was actually chosen to be placed in that pocket park?

Dir Reardon said based on the budget, they were not able to move forward with the amphitheater. There will be a gazebo/a covered shaded area which could be utilized as a stage if needed. There will be a walkway through the middle of the park some picnic tables to the east side a section that will have pavers on it that you can put food trucks onto. Also, the water/drinking fountain and a barrier with planter boxes between the park space and the sidewalk which will be able to hold different art work which will be able to be removed and changed. There will also be an archway, similar to Pioneer Plaza and landscape. It will be a passive park.

Mrs. Davis brought up the fact that there is zero parking for that park.

Dir Reardon said the idea of these pocket parks is that they are walkable for the neighborhood.

Mr. Armstrong asked if the City is matching what Leaders of Today has raised?

Dir Reardon said they received the grant that was used for the water fountain. She's not sure if they've raised other funds, she heard maybe they have raised \$1,000.

Chair Mitchell said Leaders of Today gave a fantastic presentation a way back and we've been working with them. They've done a lot for the City.

**Motion made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for 'said' project, emergency clause.  
MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn.*

**Mr. Oswald moved to adjourn the Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee Meeting and that motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis at 6:35 P.M.  
MOTION CARRIES**

**The next Utilities Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00**

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