

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

held a meeting on **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024** at 6:00 P.M.

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

**OTHER COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Cerra, Siwierka

**ABSENT:** Lipian

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Safety Service Dir Pyanowski, Law Dir Deery, City Engineers McKillips, Bill Forthofer, Justin Dietz, Parks Dir Reardon, Fire Chief Pronesti

**1. Approval of the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes.**

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

**2. The matter of an agreement with ODOT for Maintenance Repairs on I90.**

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer McKillips said this is for maintenance on I90 Turnpike to Rt611. This is standard paperwork that ODOT needs to have on file because that section is thru the City of Elyria and this needs to pass as an emergency. There is no cost to the City.

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

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**3. The matter of a change order for the ESRS [East Side Relief Sewer], Phase 1D 2N Project.**

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer McKillips said this is part of the current phase of the project. While they were installing the big sewer and big chamber in front of Smitty's on East Bridge Street, they discovered that the watermain between the RR Bridge and Cleveland St was in a bad condition and each time a valve was changed and move, there were holes that were popping in it. Engineers decided to replace that main. Because this wasn't part of the original plan, she wants to request a change order for the amount of \$400,000 to come out of the Water Fund and not out of the Sewer Fund and they can make the transaction. They do have funds included in the 2024 budget for misc. water main replacements so that is covered, they just don't want it coming out of the sewer funds that are already taxed with the cost as it is.

Mr. Stewart asked if Engineer McKillips had spoken with Fin Dir Pileski about the \$400,000 which will come out of the water fund and if that is okay.

Engineer McKillips said the funds are appropriated.  
Mrs. Siwierka asked if the condition of the water main was known when Bridgeport Commons was built?

Engineer McKillips said Bridgeport Commons is tied into the Main on East River.

Mrs. Siwierka said it looks like there is something big near East River, near the RR Bridge and is that part of this or something the RR is doing?

Engineer McKillips said that is part of this project, it's where they are doing an abandonment, although the RR will be doing some work in that area as well.

Law Dir Deery asked if this is the 1<sup>st</sup> change order?  
Engineer McKillips said yes.

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis, second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the approval of the 'said' change order and not to exceed \$400,000, emergency clause.**  
**MOTION CARRIES                      COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**4. The matter of amendments to the agreement of the Consent Decree Overflow Monitoring Services.**

Referred By:    Engineer Schneider

Engineer McKillips said this is an amendment to the agreement with CT Consultants for an additional \$41,000 for additional flow monitoring that during the course of the past few months that the flow monitoring had been started and they determined that they needed additional information. This \$41,000 will cover the cost of equipment, labor and additional time to take them thru the remaining 3 years that are required to have this equipment to monitor the flow. This is in the consent decree and required by the EPA. Emergency clause concurs.

**Motion made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mrs. Davis to authorize the approval of the 'said' amendment to add \$41,000 to the 'said' agreement. Emergency clause.**  
**MOTION CARRIES                      COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**5. The matter of advertising for bids and entering into a contract for the Overbrook Pump Station II Project.**

Referred By:    Engineer Schneider

Engineer McKillips is requesting authorizing to advertise for bid and enter into a contract for another project that is required per the consent decree. There has been an overflow issue in the Overbrook area. There is one pump station and it cannot keep up with the wet weather flow that goes thru it as well as the sewage that goes thru it.

So, they have to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> pump station and force main to the north side of the Overbrook area.

The project will alleviate the overflow and with help of the wastewater crew and in conjunction with the consultants and with the help of the residents, who have made sure that they're compliant with our no-clean water into the sanitary sewers. With that help they will be able to get this pump station sized to fit into the location that it needs to be. They will use a DEFA loan thru the EPA to pay for this project and the loan will be paid back over 30 years.

Mr. Oswald asked if this is actually adding a new pump station? And in the same area?

Engineer said it is adding a pump station and it will be east of the existing pump station.

Mr. Oswald asked if this work to install the pump station under the roads and will they be able to have those repaved after that is completed?

Engineer McKillips said they will install 2 new force mains, a new force main from the new pump station to a manhole close to Gulf Road and will verify that the sewer from that manhole out to Gulf Road is in good condition and able to handle the flow from these 2 pump stations. They will also install a brand-new force main from the existing pump station up to that same manhole. They just decided by going through sewer modeling of that area which should take care of the north side area.

Mr. Oswald said those resident's rec'd letter of what they can do to get the clean water deal so that it would relieve some of that tension. The residents did try to accommodate where there is less flow, so he wanted to thank the residents.

Mrs. Davis asked what the estimated cost for this is?

Engineer McKillips said it's 4 million dollars. And can be paid back over 30 years with an interest of 3 to 4 percent.

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis, second by Mr. Stewart authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the 'said' project.**

**MOTION CARRIES                      COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**6. The matter of applying for and accepting, if awarded, a SAFER Grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant, to hire three firefighters.**

Referred By: Fire Chief Pronesti                      *(Utilities and Finance Committees)*

Chief Pronesti said he would like to apply for the SAFER Grant which is a government FEMA grant that provides for salaries for firefighters for a 3-year period. We utilized this grant a few years ago. This time he would like to add 3 firefighters which would bring each shift with a minimum staffing of 16 and it would have little effect on overtime. We would add to each of the 3 shifts and be able to have more firefighters on the street.

And with talk of a new station, 16 is what we would need to operate. We can run 4 fire stations with our current staffing of 22 man shifts. We did it for 50 years. This would give us a cushion. When we write this grant, with 16 firefighters on duty, we would meet the NFPA Standard 1710 which provides the minimums of what is expected for a single-family house fire in a 2,000 square foot home. Now that standard is 16, so we don't need it now, but this would cover that standard.

Chair Mitchell asked if this is for 3 years and then what happens after that?

Chief Pronesti said it would be on the City. A plus would be over that 3-year time frame there will be a few attritions/retirements.

Law Dir Deery asked if this needs to be an emergency?

Chief Pronesti said the deadline was April 12<sup>th</sup>. They already applied for it.

Mrs. Davis asked what our chances are?

Chief said we have rec'd this in the past, but the circumstances and how they wrote the grant are different than how it was written for this round. Years ago, we were under fiscal issues and firefighters were laid off. This time around it's to get us to a standard and also incorporate the possibility of a new southeast fire station. It's a competitive grant, but, we have to take a gamble.

Mr. Stewart asked about ordinance 2021-22 which was a grant that has run out?

Law Dir Deery said an application for a SAFER grant was submitted in 2021 but we did not receive that grant.

Chief Pronesti said if we receive this grant there is no match.

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis, second by Mr. Armstrong authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept, if offered, the 'said' grant. Emergency Clause.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**7. The matter of approval for Elyria Community Partnership [ECP] to hold their Third Thursday events and other Festivals in Ely Square and Pioneer Park for the 2024 Season.**

Referred By: Parks Dir Reardon

Dir Reardon said the Park Board approved this on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. Elyria Community Partnership is in their third year of events downtown. Some of their scheduled events for this season are; a movie night in May and September in Pioneer Plaza, the Third Thursday events will take place in Ely Square on June 20<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>. They are also going to do a dining under the stars in July in the square.

And a Fall Festival is planned for October in Pioneer Plaza. This is the list of events that have been approved by the Park Board.

Mr. Oswald asked if the topic of selling popcorn at these events was discussed?

Dir Reardon said it was talked about with ECP as well as Invest Elyria. There are some concerns, getting volunteers to be consistent to follow through. So, they need to continue the discussions.

Mrs. Siwierka said it's interesting that the Community Partnership glossy brochure already listed all of these events. Does the library need to give any approval for the use of any of these events for the use of the parking at the library?

Law Dir Deery said the agreement will be specifically for the use of City property. She can't say if the library has agreed to allow their property to be used and they will need to speak with them. The parking lot directly behind Pioneer Plaza and The Arts Council is City property. There is a use agreement with the library. And it would be a courtesy for the library to be informed of these events. Upon Council passing this legislation, there will need to be a use agreement as part of the contract, which would state proof of insurance and things like that.

Mrs. Siwierka asked about the issue where alcohol will be served.

Law Dir Deery said a liquor license will need to be obtained for those kinds of events and the Parks Board would have to approve that and it would have to go through the proper channels. And would be part of the agreement. Dir Deery said there are a lot of stipulations for a liquor license, the area would need to be cordoned off and when you have a square that's surrounded by streets and public access, there would be detailed planning that would go into play and would also have to look into restrictions based on the Ely Trust which is a lot to go through.

Dir Reardon said that the Library is typically at a lot of these events with ECP and she said she will also follow up with them on these events.

Chair Mitchell said the community seems to respond well with the events and especially the Third Thursdays and hopefully this year each one won't get rained on.

**Motion made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mr. Armstrong authorizing the use of Ely Square and Pioneer Plaza to hold summer events. Emergency Clause.**  
**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**8. The matter of continued Discussion of 2024 Residential Street Resurfacing projects.** *(Possible vote on this matter).*

Referred By: Engineering Dept and Committee Chair Mitchell

The amount each Ward will have to spend on street resurfacing will be \$280,000.

Engineer McKillips put a street list on the screen, (which was also passed out). It lists the streets that are being considered and the costs for those streets. And another sheet with street rankings as to 1 being the worst and 4 being better.

Mr. Armstrong said that four of his streets didn't make it onto this list and some of the rankings on this list don't reflect the rankings that he and Mr. Forthofer agreed upon during their ride along.

Engineer McKillips said Mr. Forthofer did the ride-a-longs and since the transition between herself and Engineer Schneider, they way the rankings have ended up have changed. Engineer Schneider had chosen the streets that he believes are the ones that are most necessary. Engineer McKillips said that streets that are not on this list will be added along with the costs and to be considered. So, there is no problem with getting measurements and costs for those streets.

Mr. Armstrong said there are only 3 streets on this list that actually compared to what was ranked out of the 18 and not the total 22 streets. He was trying to understand why they even did a ride-a-long if it was going to be like this.

Mrs. Mitchell said if they feel a street needs to be done, please add it to the list and Engineering can get a price for it. But remember \$280,000 doesn't go far.

Mr. Cerra said we've usually had the costs up on the screen which would be helpful for Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong said his streets are; Riverside, Cedar St. Cascade St. and Water St.

Mrs. Mitchell said Mr. Lipian isn't here this evening, but we're going to move on so that they can have it done and voted on at the next council meeting. She will allow Engineering to pick his streets and if he has changes afterward he can work with them.

Mrs. Siwierka thought Cedar Street was put on the Fire Department's Capital Budget. Maybe they can look into that.

Mr. Stewart said he thought that was part of the projects for the improvements on East Broad including Cedar St heading north.

Dir Pyanowski said he doesn't remember the street itself being included, they are repairing the parking lot there.

Ward 2 ~ Mrs. Davis began by going over her list of streets. She said Louisiana (West River to Furnace and Furnace to Lorain Blvd) is not on her list and it's really bad and since it's concrete.

Mrs. Davis asked if the price that's showing on the sheet is the price for sections of the street because the whole street would be more expensive since it's concrete.

Mrs. Davis would like the entire street of Louisiana, from West River to Lorain Blvd. to be on the list. She also wants Morgan, sections and spots. And she also wants Euclid St. She will add Clinton from RR tracks to Bell. These are all concrete streets and they'll be doing work in sections. Total for Ward 2 is \$282,089.

Ward 3 ~ Mrs. Siwierka said she is sharing a number of streets with Ward one and after they did the ride-a-long, Purdue and Baldwin were discussed. Baldwin is bad and needs to be done. She wasn't sure how they will split it?

Engineer Forthofer said there is confusion. They've all decided on the Number 1's. Example they will do all of Garford, they will do an asphalt overlay. They need to go thru each ward and let him know which are the absolute number ones. He told Mrs. Davis if she wants to do all of Louisiana she has to take the time out there to measure. It's hard to give an estimate because it has to be measured up so they can plug the quantities in that were relative from last year and put it in with this year. He said that all the streets she picked are concrete and they can't give an accurate number because of the size and lengths of the streets. As we go through this tonight, we need to look at what ones you want to be done, the top 5 or 6 number ones. They can start with the first number one and go thru it and give your numbers and go backwards to the \$280,000, this will make this simple.

Mrs. Siwierka continued asking questions on some of her streets on which ones are asphalt and ones that are concrete. Vassar is concrete and Garford is paved. She wants Garford from Yale to Colgate in Ward 3 which is \$26,000. She thinks a small section of it is Ward 1 and the rest is Ward 3. She said they still will have to figure out what to do about Baldwin. So, she is also choosing California, Vassar, Ashland & Vanderbilt, Hampton and Nebraska. She said there's a section on Songbird that needs to be done but not on this list. It's the 800 block and concrete spot repairs on Tennessee.

Mr. Forthofer said he will measure those streets in Ward 3 and will stop when it gets to the total.

Dir Deery asked if any of Baldwin is in Ward 3?

Mrs. Siwierka said Baldwin is in Ward 3, Purdue is not at this time, but it's going to be.

Dir Deery suggested to stick with as the boundary lines are right now.

Mrs. Siwierka would like all of Baldwin done and she will take another street off. She asked for California to be taken off of her list.

Mrs. Siwierka completed her list and it totaled to \$279,255.

Mrs. Davis made some changes on her streets and the new total is \$263,137.

Ward 4 ~ Mr. Oswald asked to remove Overbrook because there are going to be projects going on there. He would like to change Stafford from 538 to Whitman. He would like Randall, a small section of Nash, near the church. He said there were small sections that he discussed with concrete cutouts which would be Naples from Loyola to intersection of Antioch and Antioch from intersection of Naples to Loyola. Ward 4 total amount is \$257,635.

Ward 5 ~ Mr. Armstrong's streets that are missing are Cedar St, Cascade, Water and 1152 to 1110 Riverside. He also wants 8<sup>th</sup>, Mussy, 9<sup>th</sup>, S Maple and that should leave about \$50,000. Ward 5 total is at \$230,592 and he will decide what streets to add.

Ward 7 ~ Mr. Cerra listed Longfellow. He asked about Hawthorne by the cul-de-sac, if that will be repaired from Sanitation funds because of the damage they've done and can that be widened?

Engineer McKillips said they still have a lot of work in the St Jude area. After they complete the big sewer project, finish restoration, they will do inflow and infiltration reduction and elimination work as well as installation of a relief sewer and storm sewers. The relief sewer will go down Greely and up to Olive St. or Belfield. There are drainage issues north of Poplar and that will be addressed when they look at the issues through the St. Jude area. They don't have any times for these projects scheduled yet. As it has to happen per the consent decree. And it has to be completed within 8 years.

Mr. Cerra continued saying the cul-de-sacs at Hawthorne and Longfellow they can't wait 8 years. He will go with all of Longfellow and Hawthorne to the cul-de-sac, Sandalwood from Abbe to Thornwood, Wilder from 851 to Georgetown 851 or Sherwood from 863 to Georgetown, estimated at \$50,000. Ward 7 is not finalized.

Mr. Forthofer said he will field measure it and see where that number comes up to and will try to get closer to \$280,000. He reminded everyone that they would rather do a whole street or at least a whole block, they don't want to piece mill it and move the mill all over to do certain spots and to get the most bang for the City's buck. Mr. Cerra listed a few other streets that need resurfacing, but, he said it's an endless list. The total for Ward 7 at this time is \$258,926.

Ward 6 ~ Chair Mitchell would like Woodford from Gateway to Garden, Garden St from Barbara to Woodford, Spruce St from Woodland to Lake Ave, Woodland from 700 to Lake Ave, she took out Woodford. Ward 6 total at this time is \$236,094 not including Woodland. She said the entire stretch of Murray Ridge is horrible and really bad near the school and the city limit. She decided to include Murray Ridge from the water tower to the Township line, and take out Garden St. and add Spruce back in. And the new total is now \$279,949.

Ward 1 ~ Mr. Lipian was not in attendance at this meeting and Engineering Dept made the decision on those streets.

Mrs. Siwierka said that Purdue is split down the middle, half is in Ward 1 and half is in Ward 3. Mrs. Siwierka asked Vassar to be removed from her list and added all of Baldwin. Her new total is now \$290,813.

They continued going over streets for Ward 1. Garford from Yale to Colgate, E Heights from Park to Garford, Fairlawn from E Broad to Cambridge, Henry from E Heights to Broad, Vassar from Park to Garford, Sugar Lane. Total to \$182,997.

Chair Mitchell said if there is any money for an alternate in her ward to give that money to Ward 7. Mrs. Davis will donate the few dollars that are leftover from her ward to ward 7 also.

Mr. Cerra thanked those who will donate to his ward. He does feel that there is a little imbalance from some of the worst streets which are ranked #1 and ward 7 is being affected but other wards will be affected down the road and he thinks we need to entertain a different way of this, doing the #1 streets, citywide before any #2's or #3's regardless what wards they are in. He understands it's been fair and divided up equally between each ward, but sometime that might not be fair to the taxpayer. He just wants everyone to think about it moving forward and he thanked everyone.

Chair Mitchell thanked Mr. Cerra and she's all for a better way to do this.

Mrs. Siwierka agrees with Mr. Cerra. She is perplexed that they had a list and suddenly got a different one that threw everyone off.

Mrs. Davis said that she hopes that the City's own Street Dept can give some help and relieve some of the chuckholes and things on some of the streets. Surely, they can do something. Even though a street might be concrete, but the City should be able to come out and fill and repair those holes. They need to step up to the plate.

Mr. Oswald wanted to mention our crack sealing program which is such a great benefit and he wondered how much money is set aside for that program, but it really helps out.

Mr. Armstrong said he was told during his ride-a-long that the City does have machinery that we can do more than what we're doing?

Mr. Forthofer said we do have equipment to do spot repairs. And he's hoping they can do that moving forward. He said they have a skid skar with a milling head on it which can go out similar to what the county does. They mill out sections and apply hot mix, roll it in and use tack to tack it down. It's a more permanent repair versus throwing patch and walking away. The means and methods that we're currently doing are not up to the standards what the citizens deserve.

Dir Pyanowski said he would like to discuss that process with Mr. Forthofer further.

Chair Mitchell said they will vote on a committee report but the street list will have to be updated if everyone agrees with that.

Dir Deery said if the committee is in agreement that they will prepare legislation and to be finalized with a final exhibit with final street list.

Chair Mitchell agrees, she wishes we had more money to do every street on each list. She remembers when they couldn't do any streets, before Issue 6. They are appreciative of what they do get.

Mr. Cerra remembers his first year on Council they only got \$160,000 to work with for all seven wards. Thanks to the voters for passing Issue 6.

Engineer McKillips said she will update the list and will add the costs for the streets that were added this evening and will send it out and tweak it, if needed. It will be ready for a vote at full council on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Mitchell read the committee report and asked for a motion.

**Motion made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mrs. Davis to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for 2024 Street Resurfacing Program. Emergency clause requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES                      COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn.*

**Mr. Armstrong moved to adjourn the Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee Meeting and that motion was seconded by Mr. Stewart at 7:45 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**The next Utilities Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00**

*Respectfully Submitted by,*

*Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant*