

Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2014

Call to Order by Chair Szukala at 2:03 P.M.

Members in attendance: Stacy Szukala, Stephanie Kiyak, Andy Gonzalez

Also in attendance: Tony Gugino, Randy Woodbury, Al Zurawski, Gib Snyder from Observer, and Rob LaForge, guest.

Szukala opened the floor by introducing Randy Woodbury as the new city engineer. She asked him to give a list of current projects and issues he is working on.

We seem to be all on the same page and he looks forward to many projects in the future. Dave Manzella has been a great help to Randy thus far. He has a list of 34 items he is working on. He prioritizes items daily and his first order of business was to finalize the recycling calendar for 2014-15. January 3 it was inserted into the Observer for residents. Extra copies are available in city hall. Leaf collection dates will be scheduled based on seasonal conditions. Info is also being put on the city website. Some initiatives are being discussed between Mayor Dolce, Randy, Tony Gugino and Mike Porpiglia to increase participation in recycling. More info will be forthcoming. This is for two reasons, to save \$\$ at the landfill and for sustainability. Szukala talked to Randy about increasing participation already. Randy feels optimistic.

Chemicals for water and waste water treatment are in need of being bid out again. Szukala sponsored the recent resolution and Kim Robbins noticed a couple companies could possibly come in at a lower price. These bids are being rejected and rebid with the hope to save some \$\$\$. It takes extra time but will save \$10,000. The original bid also reflected a \$28,000-\$30,000 savings. The \$10,000 is in addition to that savings. Language change played a part in this savings. A small amount of these supplies were ordered to get us through until the resolution is acted upon.

A LED lighting system is being discussed for the WWTP. ProQuip gave the city a reasonable price for the lights needed on the 43' pole. Competitive prices were obtained and by changing over to LED, were using 80% less energy. Proquip was \$900, others were approx. \$1800.

There was damage to the pole on a windy day. Jeff Hamilton from ProQuip met with Tony Gugino. Szukala asked about the lights at City hall. Gugino said those lights are already completed. Washington Park was brought up by Gonzalez. He wants to make sure this area is considered. A few years ago the wattage of bulbs in the park were changed from 100 watt to 250. This area is still on the to do list.

Kiyak questioned Gugino about a prioritized list. He stated Wright Park, Point Gratiot, playgrounds were on the list as well as any city owned property that needs updated lighting or new lighting.

Reimbursement for City Court will continue. This covers cleaning, maintenance etc. The courtroom gate needs to be upgraded making it handicap accessible. \$29,000 was old bid and the new bid will be \$49,000. This is an increase from past amounts. Resolution will follow for Council approval. Szukala agreed to sponsor the resolution.

Szukala went back to the agreement for recycling. She asked if we should put this service out to bid again. Gugino agreed and said it would not hurt to see what price we could negotiate, and possible some incentives for participation. (buckets for example). These could be available to residents at cost. As soon as some urgent issues from DPW's list were taken care of, this will be explored.

Currently we pay \$16 less per ton for zero sort. Szukala stated following the procurement policy was important. The cost per bins for each resident was not feasible a few years ago, but a different agreement could be reached.

Kiyak asked about grants for bins. Gugino said it is possible. Walmart has been a tremendous donor in the past. This could be explored again.

Equipment purchases were then discussed for DPW. Szukala questioned where we are in the process since \$\$ was allocated for a new Sterling and Garbage truck. Gugino replied that he met with the mayor, Mike P. recently to talk about a plan. Gugino wants to move forward with a targeted purchase. Example 2-3 sterlings this year. He is not in favor of 1 piece at a time. Mayor asked for Gugino to supply \$\$. Leasing is favored over buying. Moving toward a vehicle fleet turn around is key. Dump trucks seem to be the #1 problem for the department. They are old and constantly being worked on. Gugino wants the city to consider buying its own street paving machine. He believes this will save \$\$ in the long run. The three garbage packers are still operational, and

therefore not a priority for DPW. Szukala respectfully disagreed, and stated the two pieces of equipment needed at the time of budget prep were a sterling and a garbage truck. It was stated the garbage trucks constantly seem to be out of service and \$\$ is being spent to keep them on the road. The city has had several issues this year so far. The council agreed to put \$\$ aside for the two pieces and now were talking about something completely different. The garbage trucks are out Monday-Friday. Council constantly receives calls about the trucks not picking up trash/ recycling. It seems like one is always out of service. This will be discussed further.

Kiyak asked about the condition of our CSX railroad overpass areas. Gugino replied that they will be coming to the city next week. . Gugino was asked to get the most recent report and share the information with the council. Painting of the bridges will be discussed as well as Structural issues. Yearly a report is given to the National Railroad Board.

Plowing/ salt was under budget 2.34% for 2013. Gugino monitors the budget lines daily and tries to stay under when possible. Water main breaks were keeping the workers busy with 11 breaks this week alone.

Szukala asked about daily updates on the website. A protocol should be in place in case Tim G. is out of town, or not available. This will be discussed further. Gugino thinks having remote access is important. At this time there is an interface difference between Mike P. and Tim G for information sharing. The goal is to be consistent.

Al Zurawski was asked about a couple houses that have been an issue forthcoming several months. The Community Xmas building is slowly doing work and needs a new building permit. Citations were given and the front has been boarded up. Maple Avenue house with damage to front from vehicle accident has a new owner. Al will find out what the owners intentions are for the house.

Kiyak mentioned the home on Eagle street that was just rehabed looks great. She urged council to drive by and take a look.

*** there were no meeting minutes approved. Szukala is waiting for minutes from previous Chair of committee(Gonzalez).

Next meeting announced. February 27, 1:30 PM in conference room

Meeting adjourned 3:15. Motion by Kiyak, Second by Gonzalez

