

Public works meeting minutes

August 20 2013

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 AM by Councilman Gonzalez.

Present Stacy Szukala, Stephanie Kiyak, Tony Gugino, Ron Szot, and Mike Michalski on conference phone.

Tree cutting was first discussed. Tony Gugino, explained the tree cutting truck should be fixed within the next week or so. He said there was one emergency tree cut that estimated around \$400.00, and no other cutting has been done. They have only been doing trimming. Washington Park has a tree noted as dangerous within the park, and Tony mentioned it would be the first on the list.

There was more discussion following pertaining to which trees fell into the Railroad CSX zone. Tony Gugino told Stacy Szukala he would try to make contact with them and have them cut the dead tree in question on their territory.

Mike Michalski then asked Tony Gugino if we could publish something in the paper notifying the public of an organized way to let our DPW Department know of these locations and the trees that are considered "dangerous."

Tony Gugino stated rules and regulations are detailed in the City Charter, and explained that unless considered a safety emergency or a storm damage nuisance, he cannot cut trees based on personally deemed problematic reasons.

Andy Gonzalez asked who marks the trees with X's. Tony Gugino explained that was done by National Grid and he does not partake in that labeling because then it could play into public partaking into fowl play with the dangerous trees. Pubic Works Director and his team decide which are dangerous based on our code and then acts on that tree accordingly.

A mention of a fee possibly be assessed for the procedure of deeming whether a tree is dangerous and needs to be removed. Stacy Szukala said she was against this fee and instead in favor of a form that the public could fill out in the clerk's office listing information of the home owner and location of the tree. Mike Michalski stated he was also against the fee because he felt it could create a liability issue by deeming a tree dangerous and then reacting to it within such a timely manor. He felt this fee would put more responsibility onto the city.

Andy asked where the city was with street paving. Tony Gugino explained the hot in place paving was on hold due to the retirement of David Manzella. There was a bid held for it prior but there was no response and so they will have to hold it again. This was a process normally done by David. There is no official list of locations as of yet Tony stated but he said the Mayor was working on one.

Stacy Szukala made note that she was nervous about this hold up as the construction year was coming to an end soon. She said last year nothing was done so that this year the project would be grand, and as of yet nothing is started.

Budget prep was then discussed. It was mentioned that it will be starting soon for next years budget. There was suggestion that all departments submit their time invested into festivals/events.

Stacy Szukala asked Tony Gugino about trash and recycling pickup as there was a possible new owner on Bucknor and Doughty St and were not aware of the schedule. She mentioned it looked bad that it was sitting out front for a couple weeks.

Tony Gugino offered information on overtime. He stated his Waste Water Department was 2% under; Water Department was 7% under, as well as Streets Department was 30% under also.

Steph Kiyak finished up with a question regarding the ground maintenance for the towers. Tony Gugino mentioned he was in charge but only had the combination to one of 4 padlocks and he would have to get in touch with others to schedule a time they all could meet.

Stacy Szukala motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 AM.