

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, August 3, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Simmons at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Orsini, Hensley, Million, Bormann, and Parmeley, Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Mike Forsee, Phil Hoffman, Jennette Skirvin, John Hinton, Troy Balthazor, Bob German, James Smith, and others.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Bob German and two of his neighbors were present to discuss how the City might slow traffic on South Collier and South Rollins between Sims Street and Sneed Street. He said that many children live on these blocks and cars regularly drive through at a high speed. He asked if the City could add a speed bump or stop signs at Barnes. Behrns said he could not recommend bumps; they are a liability and potentially more dangerous than the speeders. He described past studies, where even stop signs or the sight of a radar gun did not deter speeders. German reported that the problem exists all day and does not just come from school traffic. Orsini said she was strongly in favor of more police presence for enforcement. Parmeley thought a concerted effort from the officers could send a message in a short time. Committee suggested use of a parked "dummy" car might be a help. But someone noted that Sergeant Cooper's car is parked on Collier Street nightly and does not slow traffic noticeably. Mayor Grenke and Behrns will examine the problem and discuss alternatives with Chief Dudgeon.

Street and Sanitation Department

Hinton and Skirvin were present to discuss what measures the City could take to improved access for the handicapped in the downtown area. They introduced Troy Balthazor from the Great Plans ADA Center in Columbia. Committee and Skirvin discussed a map and list of suggested improvements. Behrns has already directed action from the Street Department on several of the suggestions. Several others will be addressed soon. Behrns agreed to set up a meeting with Balthazor to further review the suggestions and additional accessibility needs. Some items are not specifically required by ADA, but staff is interested in doing more, within financial constraints. Skirvin noted that the Chamber will host ADA experts as part of the quarterly membership meeting on August 14 at noon. Hope to improve access in local small business. Balthazor noted that his role is not one of enforcement; his position if funded through the University to provide outreach.

Recognition

Mayor presented a plaque to Skirvin for her recent service as Alderman.

Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department. Forsee reported that less than fifty water meters needed to be manually read at the end of last month. The situation is greatly improved. He noted that some issues with the replacement warrantee are still outstanding and meters are pending retesting.

Forsee reported that the 1976 Kerry van, which the Water Department inherited from the Emergency Management Department. The van is used to carry the camera and recording equipment for studying sewer mains and identifying blockages and infiltration. The van has transmission problems, as well as needing new tires and batteries. Forsee thinks that repairs will cost in the thousands of dollars. He has looked around for an inexpensive replacement vehicle and learned that Joe Bryson is interested in sell his grey van for \$3,000. Behrns says that this makes good sense for total City finances, but it spends money from the Water Fund to save money in the Equipment Use Fund. Forsee thinks Bryson's van, which has only 80,000 miles on it, may need tires in a few months, but is otherwise in good shape. Committee thought this was a potentially good deal and directed that Forsee test drive and examine the van more closely. If it proves out, purchase should

be on the next Board Agenda. Forsee also said that videoing mains and documenting inspections and maintenance are vital to complying with DNR and EPA requirements.

Forsee reported that Schulte had completed the patches in the Booth Street sewer main and they seem to be working well.

Work on the replacement of a section of sewer main on Lakeview should start on Monday; and Insituform should start work on slip lining sewer mains within the next two weeks.

Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. Behrns noted that Mustain is on vacation this week.

Hensley said he would still like to have actual prices for changing present street lights to LED lights. Staff will provide the information when Mustain returns.

Behrns reported that more options have come up with potential power supplies, including partial purchase of a share of existing natural gas engines for middle range and peaking power. Since Centralia does not have ability to go on its own, Behrns is waiting to see the offers made to Hannibal, Kirkwood, and the other wholesale cities.

Street and Sanitation Department, continued

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Department.

Hoffman made a personal visit to Gary Ryan's recycling operation in Millersburg. Ryan can take any sort household plastics except PVC. Behrns said a notice was on the most recent utility bills and more detail about the added service will be in the next newsletter. Hoffman is able to haul all of the plastic collected with one trip per week, and the travel time is balanced by reducing the time needed to compact and bale the plastics for Civic Recycling. Hensley was interested in having the City improve its marketing effort. Committee members thought not enough residents know about Centralia's recycling program

Hoffman reported that Fulton is once again behind on the use of their tub grinder to shred brush and branches. They have sought help from private companies to catch up. Hoffman solicited quotes from the same two firms: Hansen's of O'Fallon and Braik Brothers of Columbia. Hansen's has a bigger machine, so they would be on site a shorter time. After discussion, Committee thought Braik Brothers was the better proposal, and close to the estimated cost in the budget. Orsini moved that City accept the proposal of Braik Brothers to perform tub grinding at the brush pit. Hensley seconded the motion. All members voted aye and the motions carried.

Behrns reported that APAC should do the asphalt overlay work before the end of the week.

Other

Behrns has solicited additional information from MoDOT, as requested. They recorded traffic counts for Bruton Street in March at the same time as Sims Street. Bruton Street carries 633 average daily trips, almost three times as many trips as the 228 count for Sims Street. These counts were at a time when Chance Elementary School was in session. A more recent count put the traffic on Lakeview at 1274 average daily trips. These numbers can help the aldermen in their consideration of whether Sims should be closed to automobile traffic in exchange for a sidewalk use agreement from the COLT Railroad. The aldermen will discuss the matter further in a week and determine whether Behrns should draft an ordinance for

consideration.

Mayor Grenke said he had talked at length with Mike Brooks, the new REDI President and believes Brooks is very interested in Centralia's future in Boone County industrial development. Brooks would like a meeting with Chance management in near future. Brooks also has ties to the Norfolk and Southern Railroad which may be helpful.

Mayor Grenke mentioned that a firm was examining the corner of Lakeview and Highway 124 as a potential location for a gas station and convenience store. At the Board meeting on August 17th, Carry Dozier should be present to report on grant funding for accessibility improvements.

Local resident Virgil Rains will meet with Mayor Grenke, Behrns, and Ginny Zoellers on August 6. Rains is involved with workforce development in Missouri's Northeast region. His experience may help Centralia with economic development.

Orsini said she is prepared to discuss the possible ordinance to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender orientation. She feels this can also be an economic development tool. At next week's General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting, the aldermen can direct staff and the City Attorney on what to include. Then public hearing can be scheduled in September for review of the draft.

Behrns reported on a citizen request to allow a community garden at the closed landfill. After research, Behrns heard DNR say "no" to any growing of food crops over a landfill. They are also concern about activities which might penetrate the clay cap cover. A committee member suggested to that those interested might talk to Darren Ford about using school property south of the Centralia Intermediate School.

There were no further items to be presented, and the meeting adjourned at about 8:40 p.m.