

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, October 5, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Million at 7:00 p.m. Present were Aldermen Orsini, Hensley, and Parmeley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Mike Forsee, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, Steven Oberman, and James Smith. Darryl Spauldin arrived about five minutes into the meeting.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Water and Sewer Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Water and Sewer Department.

Parmeley asked if 96 meter rereads was bad. Forsee said it was higher than last month because of the rain, but he is still working on replacing suspect meters. He also said that the 12 disconnects for this month was closer to average and much improved over the preceding month.

Electric Department

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

Mustain told Hensley that the electric department does not have a regular schedule for removing brush. Since the City built the collection area next to the east water tower, citizens can handle the bulk of the load. The City focuses on special requests and collections after storm events and otherwise performs collections as time permits.

Three bids were received for the old Altec bucket truck. High bid was Stidham Electric at \$6,510. The other two bids were \$6,251 and \$4,560. This bid being above the minimum advertised and at the upper range mentioned by the auction representative, staff recommends that the truck be sold to Stidham at the bid price. The formal approval of this will be on the next regular Board agenda.

Mustain has received ball park estimates for purchase of a vacuum excavator truck. They are in the ballpark of the \$35,000 projected in this year's budget. All three departments have observed demonstrations of the equipment operation and agreed on the most useful and practical size. Mustain is preparing a request for formal bids, feeling that the venders will then be able to offer municipal discounts. A bid tab may be available for the next regular Board meeting. Mustain passed around a product brochure and explained the situations where it will be desirable to use this equipment, rather than digging with a backhoe or trencher. With more and more buried utility lines, the City wants to avoid line damage and also be more accurate in location of our own lines.

Street and Sanitation Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Department. Hoffman explained that some modifications to the kick bar on new trash truck had been necessary to facilitate proper dumping of the City-supplied wheeled containers. Herndon had made the changes at the expense of the vender.

Hoffmann told Parmeley that he had not received any comments on the new standards for expanded collection of plastics for recycling. However, things were easier from the City's standpoint; and the recycler in Millersburg is satisfied.

Committee members noted that we now have a second mountain of mulch after grinding the materials in the brush pit. Some citizens seem to prefer this product. Grinding had been accomplished on time and budget.

No sales had yet been made to commercial users.

Hoffman has not received any comments on the van-accessible parking space added to the City's parking lot on N. Allen.

Behrns reported that the Mid-Missouri Solid Waste Management Region will sponsor a special collection of tires and electronic wastes (such as televisions and computer monitors). This will occur on May 15 at the mixing table area next to the dog pound. It will be held separately from the City's Spring Cleanup—which will be near the first of April on dates yet to be set. MMSWMR will arrange for the trucks and manpower. The City will supply some of the publicity for the event. There will be small charges for several categories of items collected.

Other

Mr. Oberman was present, representing the Centralia Accessibility Committee. John Hinten has temporarily been restricted by illness in his household and Jennette Skirvin has been asked to step down. Bridget Keenen has become a new member. Oberman and Committee members discussed several aspects of the City's responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Oberman distributed several manuals and brochures. He requested that the City commence work by following an ADA action guide. Orsini said that she was also able to find guidance for small cities at www.ADA.gov. Behrns said that he believed the self assessment he performed about twenty years ago met the City's legal obligation, but it was clear that City facilities and service could greatly benefit from a new examination and additional citizen input. When the original report was prepared and advertised, there were no comments. Since then, only three citizen concerns had come to the City and all had been addressed to the apparent satisfaction of the citizens. Behrns and several aldermen said that they felt the City was ahead of most other municipalities of similar size. This does not mean, however, that there is not need for more efforts. Public works crews are addressing issues of wheelchair accessibility downtown. Several modifications have already resulted. A meeting had been scheduled to discuss the application of the ADA to businesses receiving building permits. Although postponed, this meeting will be rescheduled soon.

Responding to a question from Spauldin, Behrns told the Committee that he had received bad news at the end of the preceding week. The City will not be awarded the Block Grant for demolition of the damaged building at 105 N. Allen. Ed Siegmund of the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission had stopped by to tell Behrns that 49 applications had gone to the Department of Economic Development and only 16 had been funded. Centralia was ranked 19 (a fraction of a point lower than the cut-off score.) We could reapply for next year; but rather than delay that long, Behrns is talking to Trabue, Hansen, and Hinshaw to see what we might be able to do in the way of asbestos removal and engineering, using money budgeted for the City's match. Later, it may be possible for Hoffman's crew to do some demolition. Behrns noted that he has talked to a person about possible purchase of the site once demolition is complete. Spauldin disputed the ability of the City to proceed with demolition without damage to the adjacent buildings. Behrns said that was why an engineer's involvement was important. Behrns hopes to have a contract cost available for the regular Board meeting.

There were no further items to be presented, and the meeting adjourned at about 8:20 p.m.