

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, August 2, 2010.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Million at 7:00 p.m. Present were Aldermen Bormann, Orsini, Simmons, Parmeley, and Angell. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Mike Forsee, Phil Hoffman, Mark Mustain, Larry Dudgeon, and James Smith. . Mayor Grenke listened and commented through a telephone connection, but did not vote.

As Mayor Pro Tem, Simmons present an award to Forsee in recognition of his 20 years of service as an employee of the Water and Sewer Department

Water and Sewer Department

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

Forsee reported on the progress of rehabilitating Well No. 3. The drilling is complete and piping should be finished on Tuesday. Installation of the pump motor and final checkout will be done in the next week. Then the Water crew will start replacing the wall and roof of the well building. Preliminary draw-down tests and videoing have assured Forsee that the well should easily be able to produce at least 800 gallons per minute. Likely, it will deliver 900+ gallons per minute and match production from Wells No. 4 and 6. While here, Flynn will replace the top four sections of pipe on Well No. 4 as warrantee work. By the end of the month, the City should be able to produce more water round the clock than the treatment plant can accommodate, and also have a full backup for use if any well is disabled. The equality of production among the wells should allow for a longer life-span for each piece of equipment and reduced maintenance costs.

The City has receive notification that it is not reaching the monthly average permit limits for ammonia on its discharge permit. We meeting daily limits easily, but the monthly average is lower than any of the daily samples. The City is meeting all other permit standards, but treating ammonia seems to require a very long detention time. The constant rains of the last three years have limited our ability to pump to the farmers, so treated water has to be discharged to the creeks before the lagoons overflow.

Detention time is reduced. The overland flow fields are intended to be a backup. However, the grass seems stunted (apparently from too much water) on the bottom cells of the fields. We have been consulting with DNR about how to respond to their notice. A DNR representative will be in town next week to confer with Forsee about options and how to specifically address the ammonia difficulty. The problem will doubtless be more severe when we next renew our NPDES discharge permit in 2013. The ammonia limit will then be only half the present limit, matching national regulatory tightening. Centralia shares this problem with most other local lagoon treatment systems, and the weather has only cut our options.

Forsee and Bormann reported on a recent meeting they had with two farmers who are downstream (by about 8 miles) from the sewer lagoons. The farmers believe that our discharge is degrading the stream, basing their opinion on the fact that beavers have moved their dam farther downstream. We disagree, but did listen to their suggestions about working the overland flow fields. Ideally, the farmers should not be able to discern any change in the creek when the City discharges. The City is giving the farmers access to any information they request. Forsee said he also intends to talk to agriculture experts about improving the growth of our canary grass on the fields. We have found that an error in the discharge permit has limited us to about one third of the water being sent to the overland flow fields as should have been allowed. We will correct this.

Electric Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Electric Department. Mustain reported that the new substation is shaping up, but is still slowed by weather. He intends to finish the lines from the substation to Barr Street and then installing the grounding grid before the fence goes is. He regrets that the project is more than a month behind his anticipated completion date.

Mustain presented a quote from HD Supply to furnish a hydraulic pole puller. This was budgeted at \$3,000, and is needed to replace an older tool that has severe wear. HD is willing to sell a demonstration unit with a six-month warrantee for \$2,100. Staff feels this is a great deal and recommends it. Parmeley moved that the City purchase the demonstration unit from HD Supply for \$2,100.00. Orsini seconded the motion. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Behrns reported that bids for scrap metal from the electric and water departments have been received and opened in accordance with the newspaper ad. The high bidder was Frank Johns (who regularly takes our white goods). His offer was \$7,151.00. There were three other bids, the next closest being \$6,100. Mr. Johns will pay cash and come on Tuesday to pick up the metal.

Mustain told Mayor Grenke that the power pole near the west water tower had not yet been straightened, but will be corrected soon. He noted that the condition had been that way for some time.

Street and Sanitation Department

Committee reviewed the activity report and future work schedule for the Street and Sanitation Department. APAC has not yet proposed a schedule for this year's asphalt overlays. Hoffman said that the plastic recycling arrangements are working well.

The "25-miles per hour" speed limit signs are in place on N. Jefferson. Hoffman found that a constant speed limit meant that fewer signs were needed.

Bids for the Safe Routes to School Grant were opened last Friday. A bid tab was available this afternoon. The apparent low bidder was Henry Concrete LLC of Silex. Kelly Homes was the next low bidder and would be in line if the Henry bid were deficient. Either contractor's bid was sufficiently low enough to allow for sidewalk on both Lakeview next to the school and the whole distance adjacent to the COLT Railroad. If Henry gets the job, all sidewalk can be 8' wide. If Kelly is the vender, the grant would allow for a 7' along the railroad and 6' next to the school. The documents have been forwarded to MoDOT. If possible, an ordinance to award the contract can be on the next Board Agenda. Otherwise, Behrns may request a recessed meeting. Everyone would like the work to start while there is a prospect of dry weather. Behrns told Mayor Grenke that Darren Ford was present at the pre-bid conference and has a copy of the bid tab. The School District would like to install sidewalk along the west side of Columbia, down to the Southwest Country Subdivision. However, it was not possible for them to be included in the City's bidding. They may be able to negotiate the same price from the winning vender and award a separate contract. In the last few days, the District has encountered some additional expenses for the removal of portable classrooms and may have to delay its sidewalk project.

Behrns noted that he had expected some citizens to be present to explain their concerns about drainage problems on South Allen Street. They had requested that culverts be cleaned more often. Hoffman reported that the culverts were clean. The area is very flat and drainage is slow. Water in the ditches will pond for sometime, but will eventually subside. Hoffman said that property owners throwing

sticks and leaves in the ditch exacerbate the problem.

Other

Mayor Grenke said he is forwarding an email from a citizen who has concerns about how the City sets speed limits. The Mayor asked that this be an agenda item for the General Government Committee.

Mayor Grenke also said he had an opportunity to talk to an hotel executive from the Hilton chain. As a consequence, he was written a follow-up letter attempting to draw corporate interest in getting a motel for Centralia.

Behrns told the Mayor and Committee that Cindy Jolly of the Mid-Missouri Solid Waste Management Region has agreed to come to the October Committee meeting and discuss recycling grants and opportunities.

Parmeley reported that the MS bicycle event will follow the same route as last year and will come through Centralia.

The Committee adjourn at 8:12 p.m.