

MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 5, 2021

4:00 P.M.

The Sunset Hills Public Works Committee held a meeting on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. from various locations via Zoom.

Roll Call.

Present:

Cathy Friedmann - Chairman, Alderman Ward III
Casey Wong - Alderman Ward II
Fred Daues – Alderman Ward IV
Bryson Baker - City Engineer/Director of Public Works
Wes Searcy - Assistant City Engineer

Absent:

Joe Stewart - Alderman Ward I

Also Present:

Anne McMunn – Alderman Ward I

As members of the committee waited on Alderman Wong to arrive, there was a general discussion of sidewalk and road construction sequencing of West Watson.

1. Approval of Minutes from July 1, 2021.

Motion: Approve the July 1, 2021 Public Works Committee Minutes

Action: Approval,

Moved by: Alderman Daues,

Seconded by: Alderman Wong.

Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of this meeting were approved.

2. Citizen Comments (10 Minutes Set Aside For Comments)
(Comments Only – No Questions – 2 Minutes Per Citizen)

There were no Citizen Comments.

3. Salt Dome Retaining Wall - Repairs

Mr. Baker briefed the Committee on some issues with the block retaining wall that supports soil under the salt dome. He said we acquired an engineer's opinion and hoped to hire them to assist with remediation plans. Mr. Baker indicated that we would like to remediate it before the next snow removal season.

Alderman Daues commented that he looked at the area and suggested a possible repair methodology. Mr. Baker responded that this method of repair was one of the two scenarios suggested in the engineer's report.

There was discussion about costs, timing, and general repair methods. Mr. Baker detailed some of the costs contemplated.

The committee recommended the following action on this matter.

Motion: To move forward with the engineering of this repair by Crawford Murphy Tilley

Action: Approve,

Moved by: Alderman Friedmann,

Seconded by: Alderman Daues.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Sunset Hills Sidewalk – Planning and Construction

Chairman Friedmann asked Alderman Wong to express his concerns about the topic. Alderman Wong stated he would like to see the connectivity of the City's sidewalk network improved. Chairman Friedmann asked Alderman Daues to state his concerns with recent City experience with sidewalks. Alderman Daues explained his concern with the procrastination of projects via petition. His suggestion was that if a project has a second petition come into play that we adopt a policy of "two and done" with regard to sidewalk proposals.

Alderman Wong detailed his support for sidewalks. Chairman Friedmann asked Mr. Baker to explain his consideration toward the matter. Mr. Baker said a petition in favor of a project might be effective before the design of a sidewalk.

The committee discussed the funding, a general procedure of assessing priorities with regard to connectivity, and population density impacts of justifying sidewalk construction.

Alderman Daues introduced the concern expressed in one example of sidewalks increasing crime in an area. This led to the thought that Alderman Wong would look into the details of this concern.

Mr. Baker was asked to explain the Ordinance regarding sidewalk petitions. He responded that a petition in favor or against has a sunset provision of 2 years. Mr. Baker detailed a petition “against” on Eddie & Park adjacent to The Courtyards and a petition “for” in the case of Leebur have both expired. He expressed concern over moving forward on these projects without an active petition “for” same.

5. 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Chairman Friedmann asked for information on this topic from Mr. Baker. Mr. Baker responded that this was an active Capital Improvements Committee the City had when he arrived 9 years ago. He said that this started a process of planning 5 years in advance. Mr. Baker described that next year budgets were pretty solid, but farther out plans were a direction and remain fairly fluid in nature. He added that these plans are assembled by staff and eventually approved by the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Baker indicated that these longer term plans are attached as a reference to approved budgets each year.

Alderman Daues asked about this committee’s responsibility with regard to Public Works versus other departmental expenditures. Mr. Baker responded that while aldermanic purview is City wide, focus of discussion as a member of the Public Works Committee will likely concentrate on public works related matters. Alderman Daues asked about the justification of different expenses and the importance of the related priorities in the long term planning by all departments.

Alderman Wong expressed concerns that priorities as expressed in a 5 year plan should more closely mirror an actual plan versus desires of individual departments. Chairman Friedmann asked if the prior 3 years budgets could be supplied to the Committee. Mr. Baker responded that could be prepared by Finance and be provided.

Chairman Friedmann asked if there was a reconciliation process to indicate adherence to a budget plan. Mr. Baker said that we know about purchases made that we know and a picture or perspective of that could be supplied by Finance as required. He added that generally speaking, we attempt to make sure we come in under budget in an effort the City fiscally responsible.

6. City Meeting Livestream – Update

Mr. Searcy said that unfortunately we will not be meeting with our IT vendor until Monday.

Alderman Daues asked about two way communication in this process. Mr. Searcy commented that he understood the Board directive to be a stream of information out of the meetings only, but that he hopes to know more after Monday.

Alderman Daues asked about Alderman Wong’s participation next Tuesday. Mr. Searcy responded that in the past, we used “Facetime” to accomplish a form of 2-way interaction with the remote participant.

Alderman Wong stated he thought that options presented were limited. Alderman Daues expressed that he hoped we could investigate options that will present 2-way communication.

Alderman Wong asked if more options could be investigated. Mr. Baker said we would do so.

Mr. Searcy recapped that at this time, we ordered "LiveStreaming" for Civic Plus and are looking into the hardware needs for this service. He said he hopes to have more information.

Chairman Friedmann asked about air filtration and the possibility of that being in place by this Tuesday's meeting. Mr. Baker said this will be investigated. Alderman Daues commented that he would like to see this applied to the office areas for staff's considerations.

Chairman Friedmann asked the current level of employee concern at this point. Mr. Baker responded there are no remote employees at this time, we have direction from the City Administrator on policies for public interaction, and that will likely soon be enforced with new directives from the CDC.

Motion: To authorize staff to make any accommodations toward air filtration at City Hall

Action: Approve.

Moved by: Alderman Wong,

Seconded by: Alderman Daues.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Other matters deemed appropriate

There were no further matters discussed.

8. Adjournment

Motion: To Adjourn

Action: Adjourn at 5:36pm,

Moved by: Alderman Wong,

Seconded by: Chairman Friedmann.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully,



Bryson E. Baker, PE
City Engineer / Director of Public Works