

## **Public Works Committee Meeting**

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Wednesday September 20, 2023

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 7:00 pm.

**Aldermen in attendance:** Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw and Neighbors.

**Additional in attendance:** Mayor Murphy and Public Works director Gary Etter arrived at 7:16 pm

**Visitors:** None

**Comments from audience:** None

### **Topics:**

#### **1. Approval of Meeting Minutes 8/17/23**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mitchell to approve special meeting minutes for 08/17/2023.

Motion passed with all in favor.

#### **2. Discuss hiring a part-time water clerk**

Jess would like to have a part-time water clerk hired by November. Pokey says the part-time person would need to be there about 1 month before Madonna retires. Madonna's date to retire is mid-February. Start date of January 1, 2023, would be appropriate. This will be placed on next Public Works meeting which will be after the finance meeting to figure the wages.

#### **3. Old ambulance sign**

The old sign was taken off the old Joplin building. People were continuing to stop there, and it was in bad shape. It is suggested to replace it with a smaller sign since the building was dedicated to Wayne Joplin. Public Works uses this building as storage.

#### **4. City wide clean-up**

Republic agrees with October 7, 2023, and October 14, 2023. The public will have to take it out to the transfer station.

#### **5. CPR class**

Everyone that went passed CPR.

#### **6. Tennis court in the East Park**

The pickleball court is up and running. We have seen some activity on it. Alderman Bertolino passed out copies of pictures comparing the Chatham pickleball courts compared to the Virden pickleball court. He is excited that it is completed but dissatisfied with the colors. It can be used as tennis or pickleball court however, the net is 4 inches too low for tennis. They can use West Park for appropriate tennis net height. We did reach out regarding color and the company said they could come paint it blue for \$5500.00. Pokey thinks they can buy the coating and paint it to have it stand out. It was decided to wait to see what the public says regarding if it is difficult to play.

#### **7. Discuss new tires for 2019 Chevy pickup truck**

The quote was \$970.00 for four tires. This is under Public Works director's spending budget. This was an FYI

## **8. DiCarlo request for annexation**

DiCarlo's are out in Mill Creek. Three to four years ago Lance Hickey built a house out there and wanted it annexed into the city. The code says that the developer is supposed to have all utilities and all improvements before it can be annexed. Dave Miller decided he does not want to develop it. He sold it to Hickey which makes them the developers. Hickey's did have all utilities and improvements completed and they then annexed into the city. DiCarlo's decided to build across from Hickey's on the south side. DiCarlo's wants to add 40 more feet to the west which was not annexed into the city. The city informed them that they had to do 40 more feet of improvements according to the code. DiCarlo's questioned why they would have to make all the improvements because if someone buys on the North side, they should have to pay half. Most recent email was in regard to 40-foot-long extension, it is hard to commit to paying for the extension of the road, sewer, and water. Would it be possible to check with a lawyer to place a clause stating if subdivision was extended, in the next 10 years, if they deemed the cost of the extensions to be too excessive, could they relinquished ownership of the additional 40 feet and it would go back to the developer who could then cover the cost of the improvements for the extension. This last email was in December 2022 and correspondence stopped. They recently emailed again stating that they have paid \$2000.00 for the annexation plat. They do not plan on developing the 40 feet. It will be grass. Mayor Murphy is going to go back to DiCarlos and asked if they are adamant about having it annexed in.

## **9. Status of easement for North End drainage project**

There is a hearing this coming Friday at 2:30 pm via Zoom. Lawyer indicated they may ask for a traverse. If so, then Sleeman and the Mayor will have to testify.

## **10. Roof replacement on pool house**

Pokey spoke with Republic will start October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **11. Status of new hire**

New hired is doing good after first 30 days. He is picking up easily. He already has his CDL. Ryan is looking for a spray license class.

## **12. Information on crack filling and seal coat**

This is basically done. They will pull up the barricades tomorrow. The barricades at Mill Creek will be pulled Friday at noon. The square looks really good. The striping and arrows are well done.

## **13. Mosquito spraying ending**

This will end typically at the end of October. If it remains cool with no rain, we will end earlier. Mosquitoes are not as active in cooler weather and with no rain they cannot breed.

## **14. Pickleball courts and signage**

Signage needs to be put up. Ideas for signage: regarding using it at your own risk, proper equipment required, proper footwear, no food, glass or alcoholic beverages, no pets, no rollerblades, no bicycles, do not abuse the net, etc.... Also, possibly the rules of pickleball signage. Public Works will get price of signage.

## **Additional:**

- Alderman Mitchel brought it to the attention that the curb in front of Save-Mor is higher than the sidewalk and people have complained about tripping. The ramps are available for the elderly to prevent tripping over the curb.
- Illinois Housing Development Authority grant. We were awarded \$131,000.00. Two on the list were 331 Holden and 911 N. Noble. Some money can be spent to acquire the properties. It can be used for legal expenses. It can be used for any properties on the list. It is only for residential properties. There is a closing webinar on October 18, 2023, that the mayor is required to attend.
- Request to have curb blocking in front of the police station repainted

- Old jet machine will be auctioned off the week of October 17, 2023
- The mayor has to reapply for quiet zone. It stated some of the pavement markings are faded and need repainted. That was all from the railroad.

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Bertolino to adjourn at 8:09 pm. Motion passed with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.



Shelly Boster  
City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: 10/19/2023