

Public Works Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Thursday, January 18, 2024

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 7:03 pm.

Aldermen in attendance: Bertolino, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, Neighbors, Boster, Cunningham and Calloway (left at 8:31).

Additional in attendance: Mayor Murphy and Public Works director Gary Etter

Visitors: None

Comments from audience: None

Topics:

1. Approval of meeting minutes (12/21/23)

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Bertolino to approve meeting minutes for 12/21/23.
Motion passed with all in favor.

~~**2. Sanitation District Agreement discussion**~~

3. Republic Services Proposal – City Hall Dumpster

Republic found out they haven't been charging for the dumpster at City Hall. Madonna or Karen told them that the dumpster was donated from Flowers. They said they don't do that. Pokey suggested talking to Angel, but she said she doesn't do commercial. She said to talk to Lori. Cleetons would do it for \$75 a month. George called Community as well, they weren't sure what to charge. The price they came up with was \$70 a month. George called Lori Garrison (Republic in charge of commercial accounts), she said they weren't going to charge any fees, only charge \$75. George asked if we only had it picked up every 2 weeks what would they charge. She said \$50.00. Bertolino wanted to know if we can get away with a tote. There usually isn't much in there. Pokey thinks we could get by with a tote. Lisa says to look over the contract to make sure rate isn't going to increase after so much time. The contract is going to be looked over.

4. Request for use of Community Center by Andrea Rojas Premier GSC. – 1 week (buy, sell, trade)

They want to buy precious metals, coins, jewelry, and antiques. Consensus was as long as they pay the contracted amount.

5. Directional Boring in extreme cold temperatures and Frontier permit

E.D. was approached about temperature for boring. He doesn't think if the temperature doesn't stay above 32 degrees both day and night for the week, there shouldn't be any boring. If they hit a gas line and the ground is still frozen, it can make a house explode. E.D. thinks we shouldn't allow any boring from December 1st to March 1st. George suggested if we don't allow them to dig a day, we add a day to their permit? E.D. is good with that. More discussion was had on what would be appropriate dates to allow and not allow boring. Gary will call and let them know Council discussed for them to resubmit with the time after April 1st. Gary will tell her the Committee will not issue a permit for anything prior to

April 1st. If they ask why, it's for safety reasons. If we are going to add stipulations, it needs to be added to the code book.

6. Prioritize properties for IHDA grant

We got the title searches back. There are 2 of them that have mortgages. George emailed Cravens about them. He said they look pretty old so they should be mostly paid off. One has a medical lien on it. He said he could probably get that one wiped out. Discussion was had about putting liens on properties and the process of sending out bills from clean up that the Public Work employees do. It was suggested to stick with the attorney and have him proceed. George said he'd try to get a hold of Hupp about their properties. E.D. said he'd get Rodericks's information and send it to George.

7. Water Meeting

Attorney, Benton and Associates, Otter Lake and people from Midwest Meter were there. George, Gary, Pokey and Ryan were there. Benton is going to look over the paperwork. Pokey thinks a bit of fear was put into Midwest Meter. Basically, in a nutshell not a whole lot came out of it. They still think it is in the system. We believe it's the meter bases. Otter Lake said it could be 2 or 3 things wrong. We have 3 different systems going on right now. We have cellular, Beacon and galaxy. It was asked 3 times why the bases were discontinued, and they kept saying cost. Found out from the attorney 3 other towns are suing them. Pokey's recommendation is to switch out every LP base with Model 25 bases and the meters to cellular.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to enter Executive Session at 8:29 pm. Motion passed with all in favor.

Executive Session:

- 1. Approval of Executive Session meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21))**
- 2. Personnel – Salary ((5ILCS 120/2 (c) (1))**

Motion made by Ibberson seconded by Boster to exit Executive Session at 8:42 pm. Motion passed with all in favor.

Additional:

- George sent an email to the Insurance Committee that Madonna looked into additional added on health insurance. George told them how much it was and they had to pay the difference. They were also told it hadn't been approved by the City Council yet. They have a few problems with it and would like to have an Insurance Committee meeting. It was brought up that the city pays 60% and the employee pays 40%, but wasn't sure if that's just for initial health insurance and not added on policies.

Motion made by Ibberson seconded by Boster to adjourn at 8:47 pm. Motion passed with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Karen Burgess
Deputy City Clerk
Date Minutes Approved: