

Public Works Committee Meeting

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday, October 19, 2023

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

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

Additional in attendance: Mayor Murphy and Public Works director Gary Etter. Gary Etter stepped out at 7:21 pm and returned at 7:22 pm. and then left at 8:12 pm

Visitors: Jessica Selhime

Comments from audience: None

Topics:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes 9/20/23

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Mitchell to approve meeting minutes for 09/20/2023. Motion passed with all in favor.

2. Discuss Salt Shed added to City's insurance policy schedule.

The salt shed does not have insurance on it. Matt Gazda will come and measure to get it added to insurance. The salt shed is about ready to fall over. It has been discussed to be a dome and place it at the park where the pool used to be. Currently where the salt shed is at it has to be dumped on a concrete slab and shoveled into the shed. It is hard to get the semis into the fenced area. Aldermen Cunningham stated it should not be placed at the park. That is a community park.

3. Discuss new flooring for Water/City Office

The carpet is disgusting and unravels when vacuumed. Pokey will get price on flooring if under spending budget he will proceed. The city workers will remove old carpet and install new flooring as time allows. If over spending budget will bring back to council. All in favor.

4. Discuss shed at the West Park

The shed at West Park needs repaired. After doing the pool house we have some plywood and shingles left. It is the property of the baseball association. It is sitting on city property. All in agreeance to move forward with repairs.

5. Discuss Wayne Joplin sign

Ideas for the sign were presented. Majority were in agreement with the 30x60 weather resistance signage that Tony Enrietta designed.

6. Discuss hiring a part-time water clerk

Jessica Selhime would like the council to consider hiring a part-time water clerk prior to January 1 when Karen becomes full-time as the city officer manager. It has previously been discussed. This will be placed on the council meeting to have the advertisement ready for approval. Auburn just placed an ad for a part-time utilities clerk. Jess will look at the ad and have it ready for approval. Will advertise November 7, 2023, through November 22, 2023, with deadline for application on 11/22/2023. Interviews can be set for 11/30/23. Wage starting at \$15.00. Majority in favor.

7. Discuss dog park at the West Park

The old ball field hasn't been used. It was suggested to fence in the gaps and create a dog park. There is one that the community uses at the KC hall. Owners seem to pick up after the dogs. Consensus is that the KC Hall is sufficient as a dog park currently. The Parks initiative can consider what items they may want when considering the plan for the OSLAD grant.

8. Water usage

We have been in discussions regarding the discrepancy in water usage and billed. We have changed water meters. We decided to look back at property owners that have lived at same residence for past 20 years. It seems 2017 is where we start showing a loss that continues to get worse. The new metering was placed in 2012 and worked until 2017. Jessica is looking into it to see if the customers stayed the same or changed usage in 2017. The water metered from Otter lake has been about the same for past 20 years. The city meter and Otter lake meter match. We are just not billing out enough. We changed 50 and they are getting tested. They are looking to see if it is the base of the meter to see if 5 gallons go through and it is only calculating 1 gallon. Nursing Home is the biggest water usage. In the last year, we have not billed over \$250,000. The water tower is normal with normal usage. It does not indicate a leak. Also, our water meter matches otter lake meter.

Additional:

- Donnie Neighbors had planned on being at meeting but was unable to attend. He is asking for permission to reserve the city park for July 4, 5, and 6, 2024 for American Legion Forth of July celebration. It was recommended to take it to council for approval. All in favor.
- Thank you from the family of Erv Shores
- Regarding the grants, the mayor had to go to a seminar. It was required for a member of local government to attend. The amount of work that grant administrators have to do is ridiculous. If IHDA had the same rules as DCEO there is no way, we can keep up without a grant administrator. There are just processes regarding the bidding process, advertising and timeline, environmental assessment, environmental impacts, federal labor standards, all within a certain date. We will need a resolution at the November meeting along with signing certificate of incumbency.

Motion made by Murphy seconded by Boster to enter executive session at 8:12 pm

Executive Session

1. Approval of Executive Session meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21))

Motion made by Boster seconded by Mottershaw to exit executive session at 8:14 pm. Motion passed with all in favor.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mottershaw to adjourn at 8:14 pm. Motion passed with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.



Shelly Boster
City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: