

**Public Works Committee Meeting**  
City Of Virden  
City Council Chambers  
Thursday, December 21, 2023

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

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

**Additional in attendance:** Mayor Murphy, Deputy City Clerk Karen Burgess, Public Works director Gary Etter and Attorney Joe Craven.

**Visitors:** David Bounds (left at 8:18), Ryan Calloway, and Matt Gazda

**Comments from audience:** None

**Topics:**

1. **Approval of meeting minutes (11/16/23)**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Bertolino to approve meeting minutes for 11/16/23.  
Motion passed with all in favor.

2. **Discuss pay increase for Ryan Calloway, Superintendent of Public Works**

Minimum wage goes up on the first. Union employees get set amounts. Come March 15<sup>th</sup>, Ryan will only be making 20 cents more than Timmy. If we are going to talk about individual employees, we need to be in executive session. Boster doesn't think it is right that our supervisor is only making 20 cents more than the union employees. This will be discussed more at the Jan. meeting in executive session.

3. **Discuss December 2023 shut-off procedures due to the City's holiday schedule.**

In the past, we didn't shut off at the end of December. With shut off on the 27<sup>th</sup>, we won't be back in until Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. If someone was shut off, they would be without water for almost 7 days. Etter recommends if the Council agrees to not do shut off until Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> when we come back. This is just informational, so everyone is aware of it.

4. **Dicarlo annexation**

Joe investigated it and the 40ft is already annexed into the city limits. Does the City need to approve the plat? Essentially at this point it is more a private matter between Dicarlos and Miller. They need to figure out how plat a is being incorporated into plat b. We just need to approve the plat? Right.

5. **Prioritize properties for demolition through IHDA grant**

The council discussed the properties and ways to acquire the properties. Etter numbered his and decided the one he most wants to see gone is the property on Holden. This property may be expensive so he numbered the ones in order that he would like to see gone. Discussion was had about Joe doing a title search on the properties to get an idea which ones would be easier to acquire and then prioritize from that list. Mottershaw proposed to take Holly Emery's property off and add 433 Springfield.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Bertolino to request Joe to do a title search on the 11 properties. Motion passed with all in favor.

**6. Discuss legal options for obtaining those properties**

Discussion was had on sending out nuisance letters. Also discussed putting liens on properties and how to do that.

**7. Discuss legal ramifications of unaccounted water**

Discussed the water loss situation that has been happening since 2017. All the steps that have been taken so far on trying to find it and not having much help from Beacon or Badger meter. Locis was even called to make sure all gallons were being billed for from the reads pulled over from Beacon. Discussion was had on how we get the numbers, are we getting all the numbers or is there a software issue. Could it be a meter base or software issue. The LP bases we have, and the galaxy has been discontinued. We can send them a strongly worded letter from our attorney for a sit-down meeting with the attorneys, the mayor, Matt, Nick, the public works guys, and a Benton Assoc. employee. Discussed the possibility of changing the system we have and how much it could possibly cost. Pokey would recommend that, but he can't guarantee that's the problem. It was discussed on starting the process to get a new system and to bring them into talk. Permission was given to Joe to contact Bryan at Benton and Associates to get the information he may need.

**8. Discuss Frontier boring permit**

They filed an application for boring. Pokey met with them, and they agree. The timeline they submitted is Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> for completion. Pokey is okay with extending that time frame to Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>. We have not received the plans for moving the boring site to the opposite side of the street.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Bertolino to recommend accepting the proposal with the updated drawings once received and the deposit put down. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Executive Session:**

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

**Additional:**

- Where are we at on the Dean St. project with Stefanie? Etter will contact her and find out.
- Where are we at with the Sanitary District contract? Murphy has been holding off talking to them. We sent them the requirements to bill for them and they sent back a ridiculous proposal back. They knew we wouldn't accept that proposal, so they sent one that was a little bit more reasonable. Have them come to the Jan. meeting to have further discussion.

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Bertolino to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Motion passed with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Karen Burgess  
Deputy City Clerk  
Date Minutes Approved: