

Public Works Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 6:00 pm.

Aldermen in attendance: Bertolino, Mitchell (arrived 6:32pm), Mottershaw, Neighbors, Boster (left at 8:20pm), Cunningham, and Calloway (arrived 6:08pm).

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

Visitors: Donnie Neighbors

Comments from audience:

- Donnie Neighbors – Would like to hold his fall festival on September 28th from 10am – 4pm. He would like to block off Vance St. to Springfield St.

Motion made by Murphy seconded by Bertolino to take this to council to block off Vance St. to Springfield St. (the whole st.) on September 28th. Consensus passed.

- Donnie talked about the city putting a pavilion at the square. (60 x 40) He's talking for the American Legion. It's something to think about 2-3 years down the road. Bertolino asked him to get them more information on what they are wanting exactly.

Topics:

1. Approval of meeting minutes (2/15/24)

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to approve meeting minutes for 2/15/24. Consensus passed.

2. Budget and Appropriation

- **Streets and Alleys:** Salaries we don't have at this time. Sidewalk and Materials: \$7,500; Safe Routes to School: \$80,000 (half is grant); Purchase of Street Signs: \$3,000; Trees and Stumps: \$6,000; Culverts: \$6,000; Repair and Maintenance of Equipment: \$24,000; Supplies: \$15,000; Survey and Engineering: \$5,000; Purchase of Equipment: \$34,000; Rental and Backhoe Service: \$3,000; Snow and Salt Removal: \$5,000; North End Drainage Project: (Appropriation \$600,000); Gas and Oil: \$17,000; Surface Water Drainage: \$6,000; Rock: \$7,000; Street Lighting: \$32,000; Telephone: \$1,000; Utility, Electric and Gas: \$2,500; Miscellaneous: \$1,000; Clothing: \$2,500; Training and Education: \$500; Drug testing: \$1,000, Advertising: \$500, IMRF and Social Security will be done once salaries are figured out. Employee life Insurance: \$1,100; Health Insurance: \$19,000; Purchase of a Truck: (Appropriate \$80,000); Street Project: (Appropriate \$80,000); 01-02-4057 Citizens of Rock and Oil: (Appropriate \$20,000)
- **Buildings and Grounds:** Maintenance Buildings and Grounds: \$40,000; Utilities City Hall Electric and Gas: \$12,000; Community Building: \$1,000; City Decorations: \$4,500; Dumpsters: \$4,000; Supplies: \$700; Pest Control: \$1,500; Generator: \$2,000; Emergency Sirens: \$3,000; Salary for cleaning person will be determined at Finance meeting.

- **Parks:** Swimming program needs to be taken off and changed to Park Improvement/Grant. Utilities and Electric: \$10,000; Park Maintenance and Labor: \$35,000 (Appropriate \$45,000); Miscellaneous: \$500; Playground Equipment: \$2,000; Fencing: \$1,000; Mulch and Landscaping: \$2,000; Lights: \$2,000\
- **Sanitation:** Weed and Insect control: \$9,000; new 01-017-4004 Annual Clean Up: \$6,000
- **Community Center:** Salaries: \$1,500; Purchase of Equipment: \$2,000; Repair and Maintenance: \$500; Miscellaneous: \$500; Supplies: \$500; Social Security: \$120; Why not put purchase of equipment and repair and maintenance as one line item? We can do that. Purchase, Repair and Maintenance of Equipment: \$3,000
- **MFT:** Crushed Stone: \$7,400; When we drive the roads, we will do seal coat; Patch: \$10,000; Sidewalks: \$8,700; Engineering and Street Maintenance, we are waiting on the Dean St. Project. Ice Control: \$6,175; Tree Trimming: \$3,000; Culverts: \$3,000; Etter isn't sure what to do now with the meters. They have finished reading meters and found 12 meters not functioning right, but that is a drop in the bucket. Meters are supposed to be good for 12-15 years. We are at the 12 year mark, so we can change out meters, get ahead of engineering and see what we need to do. Cunningham wants to know where the line item for bottled water is at. It comes out of supplies under Streets and Alleys. She wants the bottled water removed. She wants to know how much is spent on that. Also, she asked if the park project is included in the budget. Etter hasn't heard any more about that. Creating a new line item for the park project possibly called Park improvement grant. Cunningham thinks there should be a part-time grant writer.
- **Water:** Utility, Gas and Electric: \$5,000; Overtime Salaries: \$4,000; Bookkeeper to be determined; Bank Fees we don't have any more; Office Supplies and Postage: \$17,000; Audit: \$11,000; Payroll to be determined; Phone 1503: \$1,100; Gasoline: \$6,500; Materials and Supplies: \$12,000; IMRF to be determined; Miscellaneous: \$1,000; Employee Extra Insurance: \$1,000; Computer and Updates: \$3,000; School and Travel: \$1,000; Rock: \$4,000; Julie Expenses: \$1,500; Clothing: \$700; Otter Lake: \$ 650,000; Repairs: \$1,500; Elevated Tank: \$2,500; Repair and Purchase of Meters: \$5,000 (Appropriate \$1,000,000); Truck Expenses: \$1,500; Office Maintenance: \$500; Capital Outlay: \$1,000; Engineering Fees: \$3,000 (Appropriate \$50,000); Equipment Rental: \$1,000; Employee Benefits and Healthcare: \$9,200; EPA Permit: \$2,000; Water Sampling: \$3,500; Equipment Purchase: \$5,600; Maintenance of Water Line: \$4,000; Water Line Improvements: \$5,000; Advertising: \$1,000; Drug Testing: \$1,000; Website: \$1,000; Mission: \$1,200; Meter Telemetry: \$6,000

3. Sanitary District

We had a meeting with the Sanitary on 2/15/24. They didn't seem to know anything about the contracts. Murphy got an email from Craven with his response to the letter Rutherford sent him. Etter says no matter what we do the Sanitary district is going to charge the customer. He thinks we need to terminate and give them 90 days and we stop doing their billing for them Aug. 1st. No matter what they are going to bad mouth us. Etter talked about how the Sanitary District handled the Senior Rate. Bertolino read the letter that was sent out to the customers from the Sanitary District on the Senior Rate. Boster says they can't run in this race. They don't have the ability to charge and the ability to collect. We will just stop collecting for them. They can't shut off. Etter said they would FOIA us. Murphy looked and water gets 52% and Sewer gets 48%. They should be paying 48% then. He says we should give them 3 or 4 options. First choice, they pay 48% of the expenses. Second choice, they pay 1/3 of the expenses. Third choice, they just sign the contract. Fourth choice, they walk away, or we have a public hearing. Discussion

went back and forth about the Sanitary District. Cunningham is against the non-negotiating, but consensus passed with the majority going with the contract as is. Mottershaw says a public hearing is the way to go.

Motion made by Murphy seconded by Boster to enter Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and approve Executive Session minutes at 7:44pm. Consensus passed.

Executive Session:

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

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mitchell to exit Executive Session at 8:21 pm. Consensus passed.

Motion made by Murphy seconded by Mottershaw to approve the Executive Session minutes of 10/19/23 for Public Works and 11/30/23 Executive Session minutes for Public Works for personnel. Consensus passed. **Ayes:** Calloway, Mottershaw, Bertolino, Mitchell, Cunningham, and Neighbors; **Nays:** None; **Absent:** Boster

Additional:

- Calloway got a contract for the Community Center for the Library to hold a book sale. She would like to know if she is allowed to use it because they are selling books. Does she need to take this to Council? Mottershaw says she doesn't need to take it to the council. Everyone says they are okay with it.
- Murphy says a guy called the other day, Mike Brockmeyer and wanted to let us know he is a local business that does roll offs and demotion. A business called Triple Crown. They used to do just demolition, but with Republics prices going higher they decided to do dumpsters as well. Murphy wants to know if anyone has a problem with him looking into the dumpsters. No one has a problem with it.
- Mottershaw says we should have a public hearing regardless of where this Sanitary contract is going. So, we get our side of the story out and a mayor's corner letter that would end up on the websites. Cunningham thinks if the contract falls through and we split then we definitely need to do that for sure. Calloway said it would be a way to get it out and if they respond we can do a rebuttal.

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Bertolino to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Karen Burgess
Deputy City Clerk
Date Minutes Approved: