

Special Public Works Committee Meeting

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday February 27th, 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 6:00 PM

Aldermen in attendance: Mottershaw, Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Mitchell, Boster, Schnetzler and Calloway

Absent:

Also in attendance: Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, Director of Public Works Gary Etter, Ryan Calloway, Bookkeeper/ Treasure Barry Liss, Core&Main Representatives Luke Hanson and Donnie Ackerman

Audience: None

Comments from Audience: None

Topics:

1. Meter System

Discussion: There was a presentation from the Core&Main Representatives followed by an extensive Question and Answer period.

Numerous subjects covered.

Propagation Study, Number of Towers, Base Stations, RF frequencies, Frequency interference, Power failures, Lighting Strikes, Downtime for repairs, a Plan B if towers stop working.

Types of water meters, batteries, accuracy of the water meters, warranty of the meters and batteries, detection of unusual water usage such as water leaks.

Location of the meters and action to be taken if damaged by the homeowner such as by a Lawnmower or a Snowblower.

An ordinance may be needed to reimburse the city for the cost of the damage if caused by homeowner.

Capabilities of the ball valve type meter being able to shut off and turn on the water from the water office, future growth of add-on capabilities.

Installation of the meters, Core&Main subcontracts installation using union workers.

Who will purchase the meters?

If Core&Main purchase the meters, they will turn the meters over to the installers and Core&Main will bill the city for the meters and installation.

The installers could purchase the meters and then bill the city.

The city could purchase the meters and turn them over to the installers for installation.

Mayor Murphy insisted that after the towers were installed and working only 10 meters would be installed in various locations throughout the town especially in the past difficult areas to read. This will be used to test the system out before any other meters are installed.

Problems blocking communication, snow, ice, water in the pits, cars parked over the pits, rocks covering the pits.

Construction of the meters, plastic meter versus brass meters, and the effects of winter weather on the different types.

A brief history of the Core&Main company was given.

Mottershaw asked if there was a possibility of a reduction in the cost in between the bid and the actual quote?

Discussion: After the Representatives departed.

Contract wording, waving contract bidding, negotiating final cost.

Bertolino expressed that, it is our due diligence, as a council elected by these people in this community, to spend their money as efficiently as we can. I don't know if we're getting the best bang for our buck.

Giving Mayor Murphy the authority to sign for the city, in all matters pertaining to the water meter project, will be put on the agenda for the next City Council meeting.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Mottershaw to adjourn at 7:46 PM.
Consensus passed.

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk