

## Public Works Committee Meeting

City Of Virden  
City Council Chambers  
Thursday August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

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

**Alders in attendance:** Bertolino, Carter, Karrick, Donely, Matrisch, Boster

**Absent:** Calloway and Neighbors

**Also in attendance:** Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, and Director of Operations Gary Etter

**Audience:** Craig Carlile

**Comments from Audience:** None

### Topics:

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

**Motion** made by Bertolino seconded by Karrick to approve Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes of 7-17-25

**Motion** passed

#### 2. City wide cleanup

Tentative dates September 27th for wards one and two and October 4th for wards 3 and 4.

Final dates to be decided at City Council meeting on 2 September.

Hours will be from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Trucks and trailers will be allowed

A partial list of things not being allowed are building materials, tires, concrete, batteries, the old style TV's, additionally any appliance that works with freon, the freon must be removed and the lines cut.

Alderman Matrisch will speak to Republic to see if they will be willing

to give a discount or wave the cost for the dumpsters.

Funding for the clean-up was previously approved in this year's Fiscal Budget.

The last citywide cleanup cost approximately \$6055.85

### **3. Four way stop**

Donley presented a draft ordinance for the authorization and installation of a four way stop at the intersection of Ring and Dean streets.

The intersection presently has a yield sign, however there is a high concern about the traffic, residential safety, and a special concern for the safety of children in the area.

The consensus is to proceed with approval.

Cost may be minimal since there is a possibility that the yield signs can just be replaced with stop signs.

Discussion whether an ordinance is actually needed.

The committee will seek the attorneys advice on whether an ordinance is really needed.

Discussion on where to post the information about the new stop signs and how many days it must be posted before it can be enforced. This will also be discussed with the attorney.

### **4. Asbestos testing at 337 S Emmett**

The court order for demolition has been received.

There's a need for asbestos testing.

Parkland Environmental has done testing in the past for the city.

Discussion on if asbestos is found, should the asbestos removal go out for bid.

Bidding for asbestos removal is not required under the grant.

More information on the cost for asbestos testing is required.

## **5. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Virden Sanitary District (VSD)**

No Sanitation District representatives were present.

This issue may be added to the Finance Committee agenda.

## **6. North End Drainage**

Discussion on the ongoing delays this time due to the insurance bidding contract requirements and coordination between Sleeman, the engineer, and Diamond Brothers Insurance Company.

Progress has been slow; however, progress is being made on the contract for bidding.

There are concerns with the project timelines, questioning if the grant would expire prior to funding of the project.

There is an overall concern and frustration with the pace of the project, but the council understood some delays due to staffing changes and additional regulatory requirements.

## **7. Update on Dean Street**

United Contractors Midwest (UCM) is waiting on IDOT permits.

Permits are expected to be received in the first or second week of September.

Project is projected to be completed by the end of October 2025.

## **8. Establish fees for sinkhole ordinance**

Attorney Craven inputted that an ordinance may not be required and will present more information at the 2 September City Council meeting.

Possible fees could be \$100 per hour per man  
\$200 per hour for Frontend Loader (more for Backhoe)  
\$800 per hour for Vac truck

Gary Etter will do a workup for the rates and propose them at the 2 September City Council meeting.

Consensus to put this issue on the 2 September City Council Meeting  
Passed with all in favor.

## **9. Consider electric charging stations**

Mayor Murphy has received several emails on electric charging stations and the grants possibly available.

The emails recommended information videos.

Mayor Murphy watched one video and expressed his desire to watch more.

The Council concurred that the mayor should watch additional Informational Videos on the subject and discuss his findings at a future meeting.

Mayor Murphy will talk to the Virden Chamber of Commerce to get their input.

Questions that arose were, what is the cost for a station, how many charging stations, how much the grant would cover and what would the cost to the city be, location (closer to the Island the better), revenue to the city, and benefits to the city.

## **Additionally**

**CPR training** for all Public Works employees is due.

Cost is approximately \$60.00 per person.

**Water meters** There have been a number of curb stop valves (water shut off valves) that have been breaking off during the water meter replacement this week.

Many curb stops have not been used in years and are frozen up.

If the curb stops break off, they may have to be dug up to be replaced.

Major problems are, not only the valves being froze or breaking, but several are also in the sidewalk and the sidewalk may have to be jack hammered up then replaced, some cannot be found due to the area around them may have gone thru a renovation and the valve may be covered by a wall.

**Dye Street Ditch** Gary Etter recommends that the ditch be tiled.  
Area to be tiled would require approximately 80 feet of 4 foot diameter pipe  
and the contracting of a large track hoe.

Etter will get pricing for the piping and inform the council.

**Solar Farm**

A new company would like to install a solar farm by the transfer station.

Part of this one would be in city limits.

Another solar company has been in contact with the mayor for over a year.  
They are installing solar west, across the tracks, from the soccer fields.

They are requesting the city sign a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA)  
Document.

An agreement stating that the city would not complain about them being a  
Solar Farm.

The company is offering (a one time) \$10,000.00 check to the city for the  
signed CBA document.

Craven has reviewed the document.

Mayor Murphy will contact the company.

**Thank You Letters** Susan and Shawn Tarr sent a letter to the mayor,  
Thanking him and the council for the demolition and removal of the 911 N  
Noble Street House.

Another Thank you letter was received from Betty Parker on the 911  
house.

**MOU** Mayor Murphy will be sending an email MOU to the aldermen about  
Incentive and Bonuses.

**Executive Session:**

**None**

**Motion** made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to adjourn at 8:00 pm.

**Motion** passed.

Jonathan J. Myint

City Clerk

Date Approved: