

**Public Works Committee Meeting**  
City Of Virden  
City Council Chambers  
Thursday April 18, 2024

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 6:33 pm.

**Aldermen in attendance:** Bertolino, Mitchell, Mottershaw, Neighbors, Boster, Calloway (left at 8:35pm) and Cunningham (arrived at 6:58 & left at 8:50pm)

**Additional in attendance:** Mayor Murphy, Deputy City Clerk Karen Burgess, Public Works Director Gary Etter and Jessica Selhime (arrived at 6:48pm)

**Visitors:** Benton and Associates Brian Cannon (arrived at 6:45 pm) and Luann Ribley (arrived at 7:10pm)

**Comments from audience:**

Luann Ribley- She didn't realize she needed to take it to council if she wants to fill in her ditch. There has never been water in her ditch. The ditches to the south of her up to Spruce are filled in and the ditch to the north is filled in also. She contacted Tony Miller, and he came in and put in a tile. She showed pictures of the filled in ditches and from the last big rain the ditch across the street was filled with water and hers wasn't. She was going to fill dirt over it and plant grass seed. She was stopped and was told she had to get approval. So, she is at the meeting to get approval to let her leave it there. She can't mow it herself due to health reasons. She is hoping the council will let it stay. Pokey has looked at it. Pokey said it was a good job. There is no complaints on the work. Discussion went back and forth on policy, others that were denied and whether to allow her to do it or not. There was discussion on amending the policy.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Calloway to approve this particular case of letting Luann fill over her tile that she paid for to take this to council. Consensus passed with majority.

**Topics:**

**1. Approval of meeting minutes (3/20/24)**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to approve meeting minutes for 3/20/24. Consensus passed.

**2. Summer Help**

Pokey has an Ad made up. He wants to get it put up before school ends. The Ad explains everything. He is looking to hire 2 Summer Helpers. Basically, looking to hire 2 Summer helpers from June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> at the pay rate of \$14.00 an hour. Advertise from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup> and interviews on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to take to Council to vote to hire 2 part time summer help at \$14 an hour from June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Discussion: Why not \$15.00 like other part-time? We always did minimum wage. Chatham is doing theirs as \$14.00 an hour.

Consensus passed.

### **3. Community Building Roof**

The roof needs to be done. There isn't much granules left, just all fiberglass. Pokey had 3 different contractors look at the roof. He has 3 bids. Are we going back to asphalt shingles? Yes, they are shake shingles and they are lifetime. Pokey was told if the shingle itself has a lifetime warranty. If there is hail damage or something like that, then it would have to be done by insurance. Like wind damage if it wasn't put on right, it gets replaced. If it loses its granules? If it's a defect of the product, yes. Pokey handed out the bids. This doesn't need to be done immediately, but sometime this year. Boster would like to hear the comments and would like to go into executive session to discuss it.

### **4. Update Demolition of Houses**

Pokey didn't know where we are on that. Kirby's place on Jackson is going to be coming up at the May meeting for vote of purchase. Attorneys already got that going. The lien that was on it has already been waived. The attorneys already have a letter addressed to the other applicants. Pokey has had questions asked about the one on Finis and Holden. Will that be done this year? Depends on how easy it is to acquire it. If there are any that need mowed, we can fine it and put a lien against it.

### **5. Water Loss**

Brian Cannon passed out spread sheets. He doesn't have a lot of definite answers. The spread sheet goes from 2010 to 2023 and goes through the months there are some with blank spaces. The ones in grey you have high readings low readings then nothing. They are still putting the data together. The colored graph in '19 – '20 the water has been going up continually that the city has been using, but the billing has gone down. Is it the billing software or is there a potential leak? Pokey, can we shut off the valve and have the city live off the tower to see if the meter is still spinning? Pokey will do that at the tower.

They got the name of this company through Joe Hogan out at Otter Lake. Pokey handed out papers. This company will strap a monitor meter to the front of Otter Lakes meter where it comes in. They will monitor water coming into town. They are going to put another meter on the water tower. They are going to do it for 30 days and monitor from 2am – 4am. If we use a bunch of water at this time, there can be a leak. If we don't use a lot of water, it could be the meters that have the issue. Or it can be a combination of both. Will it monitor water flow going in and out? Yes, he should realize it.

The Public Works guys are going to try and build their own bench test. Pokey doesn't like how Badger tests the meters because they put high pressure through it first and can blow it out and then show it is working fine. Also, we shouldn't have the same people we buy meters off of test them too.

Lets take this to council to approve, but with Murphy's spending authority go ahead and do it.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mottershaw to recommend to council to hire Edenbrothers to do this for \$3490. Consensus passed with majority.

**6. Sanitary District Contract**

They don't want to pay us \$3,000. We don't want to take less than \$3,000. They want to have meetings but not the whole council and not to be a public meeting. Murphy read off the new letter from Roger Rutherford to Don Craven. Murphy read texts from Kim Ball. They are wanting an extension. Discussion went back and forth on the extension and/or duration of time and price. Murphy called IML. Brad Cole called back. Murphy told him what is going on. Brad said \$3,000 is a bargain. The majority agreed on a 30-day extension at \$3,000. If we had a meeting with them, who would want to attend. Cunningham and Boster say they don't have a right to request who can or can't come. Also, FOP want to talk to Murphy and one Alderman. Mottershaw said they can't exclude anyone. Murphy tentatively set a meeting on April 23 @ 6:30pm. They can't dictate who can be on your negotiating team. For Sanitary, we can do a Special Meeting before Finance at 6:30pm.

**7. Budget and Appropriation**

Pokey will get together with Mottershaw.

**8. Boring Permit**

Frontier left a portion out of their previous permit request. On page 21 and 22 water main needs to be changed to the other side.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Bertolino to recommend to council to approve this boring project from Frontier, project number 2519973 contingent upon changing the water lines to the other side.

Discussion: We have to move the water lines? No, they have to move to the other side. They don't even have their permit yet. They are working on getting their \$20,000 bond together. They have been shut down. Since this is a new permit, they have to pay \$5,000 and another \$20,000 bond.

Consensus passed.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Mottershaw to enter Executive Session at 8:51pm to talk about personnel and potential contracts. Consensus passed.

**Executive Session:**

- 1. Approval of Executive Session meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21))**
- 2. Personnel (5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1))**
- 3. Potential Contracts**

Motion made by Boster seconded by Mottershaw to exit Executive Session at 8:56pm.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Bertolino to take the estimate from B&H Roofing to replace the roof on the Community Center at the rate of \$27,650.00 with an adjustment if plywood is needed to council. Consensus passed.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to approve the Executive Session minutes from 1/18/24 and 3/20/24. Consensus passed.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Bertolino to recommend to council to hire Gail Grady as Custodian at the rate of \$15.00 an hour. Consensus passed with majority.

**Additional:**

- Murphy talked about a grant he signed up for but didn't get.
- Murphy said they got a plan for the ATM FNB wants to put in.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Bertolino to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Karen Burgess  
Deputy City Clerk  
Date Minutes Approved: