

**Public Works Committee Meeting**  
City Of Virden  
City Council Chambers  
Thursday May 16, 2024

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 6:44 pm.

**Aldermen in attendance:** Bertolino, Mitchell, Mottershaw, Neighbors (arrived at 7:07pm), Boster (arrived at 6:44pm), and Calloway (arrived at 6:59pm)

**Additional in attendance:** Mayor Murphy, and Public Works Director Gary Etter

**Visitors:** None

**Comments from audience:** None

**Topics:**

**1. Approval of meeting minutes (4/18/24)**

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Bertolino to approve meeting minutes for 4/18/24. Consensus passed.

**2. Shirley Lomelino drainage/right of way on Soda St.**

Bertolino went out there Saturday at about 2pm. It was cordial. The ditch she is talking about that runs between her two houses. It runs water and there are a few spots where it may hold a little bit of water. When he was there, we had a lot of rain, there were a few pieces with a little water here and a few that were mud. For the most part it drains. She and Vincent told him there are two tiles, one plastic and one concrete. They said the concrete one is collapsed and plugged and water doesn't flow. He checked with Pokey; it does run water. They both do. Pokey has jetted them and cleaned them before. Bertolino tried to explain to her that when you get a 2"-3" rain there is nothing that can handle that much rain in that short of time. It will flood and it will recede and go down after a time. Bertolino thinks all this is pertaining to Mr. Chizmar. There is a civil case between the two of them and they don't like each other. They are bringing the city into it. Mottershaw asked if Pokey did any ditch work out there before Chizmar filled in his ditch? Bertolino said on Broadway. Pokey said yes and then they put a tile in there where Tommy has the entrance and Narmont let us come across his property and dump it in his ditch for overflow. Since Tommy closed that ditch up, all the water is on the South side of the road Broadway. Pokey said she should be thankful for all that water doesn't go her way. She'd have a bigger problem. Pokey said to let you know about the concrete tile. When we had that big storm overnight and got all that water, that tile was plugged until we went down with the jet machine and jetted it and sucked it out. We had to pull out all the blocks, bricks and wood that they put in the ditch. There is more story than what her story was. Bertolino said he would get back with her, but he'd like to see for himself after a good rain. The other issue she had with Chizmar is the fence he put up on the North side of his house that runs down Soda, it does appear that it's in the middle of the ditch. Murphy says, but it's his (looked on county map). Bertolino says what he's been told it's a narrow

right away through there. Pokey said it was either Narmont or Tommy who surveyed those lots. Bertolino asked Pokey if he could locate those pins? Pokey says it depends on how it's located. He said he would try. Bertolino said to put flags down that way they can show Shirley.

### **3. Mosquito/Bug spray schedule**

They are both out spraying right now. Ryan is showing him how it works and how everything goes. Then they will be taking turns. Right now, Pokey believes they are going to be doing it once a week weather permitting. One week will be Ryan and then one week will be Ash. Ryan said it would be tough to tell him a specific day because of the weather.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mottershaw to enter Executive Session at 6:44pm to discuss personnel. Consensus passed.

#### **Executive Session:**

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

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mottershaw to exit Executive Session at 6:51pm.

#### **Additional:**

- Bertolino got a text from John Huffines who is in his ward. He's on Grove Street. He has drainage concerns and has for a long time. When we do the sidewalks for the Safe Route to School maybe we can talk to the school in conjunction with the sidewalk before they get there that sidewalk has a pretty good hump to it and bring some of that down and try to let that water get to that ditch. It's coming from the bus garage parking lot towards the street running across the street towards the Hickeys. They don't complain. If as much water is going through there that John Huffines says, Hickey's house would be floating. With how much water he says goes through there his grass would be laid down, you'd see rock in his yard and Pokey doesn't see any of that. Pokey said he'd take a look.
- Murphy said Neil from FNB contacted Pokey and him a while back. They are wanting to put an ATM across from the bank. They don't own that property, Russ Bohl does, but they might trade with him. Before they do that, they want to make sure it's okay. What they want to do is have them pull in on the West side and exit on the East side. His concern is that most of the cars that are coming are going to want to turn towards Springfield St. and is there enough room to turn to get to the stop sign. Pokey went and measured it off and it has to be at least that many feet from the former to turn to do that. Boster wants to know why they would do that? Most people who turn into that is the driver that goes into the ATM. They pull in and the ATM is over here. They are putting the ATM on that side of the road. Bertolino said it'd be better if they reverse that. Neil wants to know if he can already make plans for it or are we going to veto it. Murphy told him we are going to be doing work on Dean St., so he didn't think they would want to work on this before and have some of this torn out. Bertolino said is there anything we can really do? It's nice for them to be asking and for our input. Bertolino agrees with Murphy, but he doesn't think there is anything that can be done about it.

- Boster said Sharon and Todd who bought Jo's are asking about the building in between again. He told them the city can't afford to go in and demolish that building. He doesn't have an answer for her. He tells her we talk about it all the time. Murphy has looked into downtown grants. He hasn't read all the details. If we could get them to deed it to us then we could get a grant to tear it down and make it a public area or something and possibly beef up that one wall. Bertolino says we could provide them with the owner's name and phone number. She asked Boster how the other one across the street came down and he told her the owner did it.
- Mottershaw asked Pokey if he looked at the tile on Noble. He has not looked at it. The tile is removed.
- Bertolino and Pokey talked about a Salt Dome. Bertolino asked Pokey if he was able to get ahold of Accu Steel for a price. Pokey says he doesn't have it with him, but he has a price from both. Mitchell wants to know the platform of the building is metal or wood. Bertolino says its hot dipped galvanized steel on concrete blocks. Mottershaw asked to bring in a rough diagram.
- Boster asked about the Sanitary District. They haven't heard anything from them. Murphy said he talked to Kim after Jess asked about pool fills and watering. Kim said to go ahead and sign them up. Murphy said but once May 31<sup>st</sup> comes around, we won't have anything to do with that list. He guesses we could give it to them. Boster says we should cut ties. Calloway said she asked this question once before, are you sure you don't want to think about assuming the Sanitation Department because that's revenue for the city. Bertolino says it has to be up to the citizens. Murphy said Joe said at the last meeting that the city hasn't told him to look into it. So, he hasn't done any research on it. Boster says we may want to go down that road. Murphy said everyone he has talked to about the Sanitary District ask why can't you just take over. Bertolino says there are just a lot of what ifs and what to do to acquire them the proper way to get it on the ballot to vote. There would need to be a lot of planning and developing. Mottershaw says the public would be better served if we ran it. Mottershaw wants to know if we are seriously looking into this for the intent of doing it for the public's benefit. Calloway and Boster think it's something to look into. Murphy said he'd make another call to Brad Cole at IML. Mottershaw wants to those who want it to be looked into to raise your hands. Everyone raised their hands.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm. Consensus passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

Karen Burgess  
Deputy City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: