

**Public Works Committee
Minutes
6:30 P.M.; April 27, 2009**

Minutes of a meeting of the City of O'Fallon's Public Works Committee, held in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall, 255 S. Lincoln, O'Fallon, Illinois on April 27, 2009.

CALL TO ORDER: Time: 6:40 P.M.

ROLL CALL: MEMBERS: Acting Chairman Reckamp, N. Drolet, Bennett, Engler
Absent: Medford

NON-COMMITTEE ALDERMEN: Schmidt, Albrecht, Polites, J. Drolet, Albrecht,
Mouser, True, Grogan

STAFF LIAISON: Bell, Sullivan, Bowman, Denton, Funk

GUESTS: Dave Pfeifer, John & Janice Kiegel, Richard Tripp, Paul Pfennig, Douglas
Morton, Stewart Drolet, Deanne Weiss, Paul White, Steve Hellin, Tom Faulkner

Minutes from March 23, 2009 were approved.

- Item 1. **POI:** Wesley Pond Easements – This item was not on the agenda for discussion; however, John and Janice Kiegel of 211 E. Jackson wished to speak to the committee about the issue. They are willing to grant the city an easement and understand that staff has a plan on the project. Staff advised the Kiegel's that the easement has not been written yet. Staff is meeting with the consultant on Wednesday. The project target date would probably be August or September during the dry season. (Open)
- Item 2. **POI:** 103 Knobcreek Drainage – This item was not on the agenda for discussion; however, Richard Tripp spoke to the committee regarding an inlet on his street. Mr. Tripp provided a CD and photo's of flooding that occurs during heavy rainfall in the cul-de-sac in front of his home. He understands there is no funding currently available to remedy any problem, but has been told previously that the throat of the inlet is not big enough to receive the amount of water directed to it. The drain empties into the creek, and there is an overland relief drainage swale designed to grading of his and a neighbor's side yards. He fears that the drain and swale are insufficient to take all the water that could accumulate in front of his house and cause flooding of the basement. Ponding in front of his home has happened 4 times in the past year. He stated the water usually drains within 20 minutes of the rain stopping. Committee asked if staff could have an assessment of the inlet completed. staff will ask The Fulton Group to complete the assessment not to exceed the amount of \$2,000.00. (Open)
- Item 3. **AI:** Sewer Backup – 303 Fontainebleau – Deanne Weiss of 303 Fontainebleau, Douglas Morton of 309 Fontainebleau and Maurice & Sylvia Beuckman of 307 Fontainebleau spoke to the committee. They are upset and disappointed that the City's insurance carrier denied their claims for damage

POI: Point of Information

AI: Action Item

due to a recent backup. They feel that the city is responsible for the backup. Staff reported we will never know what caused the blockage in the line at the time of the backup. Staff reported that our camera truck is out of service due to a software change needed for the recording equipment, and the vactor truck was being repaired at the time of the incident. As a result the backup was compounded by the wait for Caseyville Sanitary District assisting in a mutual aid response. Residents stated there was a backup 4 years ago, and at that time the City assisted in the cleanup of the homes affected. Committee requested staff to contact a contractor to camera and do routine maintenance to the line in amount not to exceed \$3,000.00. (Open)

Item 4. **AI:** Water Valve Exercise Equipment Purchase – Staff presented information on a Valve & Vac Maintenance and Repair System. Our Water Division staff recently received a demonstration of a valve/hydrant exercising machine. The unit demonstrated also contained a vacuum and potholing tool used for cleaning and maintenance of valve boxes. Key Equipment presented a proposal to sell us either a new Hurco unit or the 2 year old demo unit with 27 hours on the machine. The cost of the demo unit is \$35,835 compared to the \$50,985 cost of purchasing a new unit. Hydrant and valve exercising are important components of our ongoing maintenance routine for the water system and is an activity that has received some scrutiny in recent years from IEPA during our inspections. We have made considerable progress in the past couple years in bolstering our hydrant maintenance program, but valve exercising and maintenance continues to lag behind our expectations. The work itself when done manually is very strenuous, time consuming and is a workers compensation claim waiting to happen. The Hurco machine makes the process much less labor intensive and offers additional maintenance opportunities beyond what a valve exercising crew would typically be able to accomplish. (Closed)

Motion: Committee recommended approval of the purchase of the equipment from Key Equipment for the Hurco Valve and Vac Model 150 G in the amount of \$35,835.00.

Item 5. **POI:** Stormwater Issues – Staff informed the committee that Ald. Medford requested this item to be on the agenda. To set the stage for the discussion of the issue, staff reminded the Committee that the City's stormwater study in 2004 did not look at all of the problems in the city; yet, the study shows 23 projects with a cost of \$11,860,000 in 2004 dollars. The stormwater utility was discussed as a means to raise funding to address the problems. Residential homes are usually considered one unit, while commercial and institutional building sites monthly costs or rates are based on actual impervious area. The stormwater utility fee is just that, not a tax. The question as to the City's ability to exact such a fee was raised. An Illinois Supreme Court decision has affirmed that such a fee is legal. Additionally, home rule, which is the case in O'Fallon, is not necessarily a player in the imposition of the fee by a city as

cities in Illinois have the right to form utilities. An additional question raised about the utility was if current Special Service Areas would also pay a utility or receive a credit. Staff answered that they would still pay the fee although the special service area tax may be adjusted. The tax would pay for landscaping services and general maintenance of detention ponds assigned to their area as homeowner associations do to their ponds. Both special service areas and homeowner associations would be held to the same standard as to housekeeping expenses. Now, the modification of a pond or outlet to reduce flow from a pond whether service area or association would be paid for out of the utility revenues. Credits for ponds, training or other innovative stormwater techniques were discussed briefly. This item will be held over to the next meeting for further brainstorming of all issues. (Open)

- Item 6. **AI:** Sewer Trunk Main and Sewer Main Manhole Inspection and Repair – Staff presented a proposal from Gonzalez Companies in the amount of \$231,477.00. Pat Judge of Gonzalez is the engineer of record for all recent inspections of these items, and as a result, will hit the ground running on this project that is qualified for “stimulus” funding. The City may have to spend some of the money up front, and if we succeed in obtaining stimulus money almost all of that should be reimbursable. If we are unable to obtain the stimulus money we would stop the process. Gonzalez would also act as the project manager if funding is obtained. (Closed)

Motion: Committee recommends approval of the agreement with Gonzalez Companies in an amount not to exceed \$231,477.00.

- Item 7. **AI:** Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Proposal - Staff presented a proposal from Henry, Meisenheimer & Gende, Inc. (HMG) in the amount of \$493,200. HMG is the engineering company of record for the current treatment plant. This project is also qualified for stimulus funding including professional services. As with Item 6 above, the City will have to spend some of the money up front, and if we succeed in obtaining stimulus money most of it will be reimbursable. If we are unable to obtain the stimulus money we would stop the process. HMG would also act as the project construction manager if funding is obtained. (Closed)

Motion: Committee recommends approval of the agreement with HMG in an amount not to exceed \$493,200.

- Item 8. **AI:** Wastewater Rate Changes – Staff presented information on the proposed rate increase to the committee. The rates need to be adjusted now to allow qualification for funding (\$9.5M @ 0% interest) under the federal “stimulus” act. In short, the WWTP needs a new clarifier and headworks (\$7.0M) while the sewer trunk mains and sewer main manholes need extensive repair (\$2.5M). IEPA looks to see if our rate structure can support loan payback payments. The proposed rate increase also includes a lateral repair program and changes in the Sanitary Sewer Ejector Pump Program. We are currently

getting a lot of I/I (Inflow & Infiltration) into the system. The WWTP cost for treating this is approximately \$500,000 a year. Beyond the rather urgent requirement to get rates in place for the stimulus qualification, the City's rates are insufficient to support operation of the sanitary district. The district currently has no reserve funds and will end this fiscal year in the hole. Paul Pfenning of 409 Magnolia spoke to the committee on considering incentives for residents to go green – gray water use, rain barrels, and other water saving/wastewater reducing activities. (Closed)

Motion: Committee recommends approval of the wastewater rate increase overall.

Item 9. **AI:** Contract GIS Locate Services – Gateway Geospatial, LLC provides on-site, day to day Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) Services. This renewal of an existing contract provides for a 1/2-time Field Data Collector position. Beyond providing for this position, the contract establishes a rate structure for additional professional services beyond the scope of what can be completed by the onsite staff member. The renewal contract is for one year as in the past. (Closed)

Motion: Committee recommends approval of the Gateway Geospatial, LLC agreement in the amount of \$24,440.

Item 10. **POI:** Carriel Jr. High School Connecting Sidewalk –No Action. (Open)

Item 11. **POI:** 1102 Lorien Court Drainage – No Action. (Open)

Item 12. **POI:** 211 Howard Drainage Problem – No Action. (Open)

Item 13. **POI:** Lee & Howard Intersection & Drainage Ditch – No Action. (Open)

Item 14. **POI:** 209 Joy Drainage Problem – No Action. (Open)

Item 15. **POI:** 506 Dartmouth Drainage Problem – No Action. (Open)

Item 16. **POI:** Weber and 50 Drainage Problem – No Action. (Open)

Item 17. **POI:** 704 Oak Creek Court – No Action. (Open)

Item 18. **POI:** 600 Block of E. Washington Street Vacation – No Action. (Open)

Item 19. **POI:** 1105 Elisabeth Drainage Problem - No Action. (Open)

Item 20. **POI:** 122 Central Drainage Problem – No Action. (Open)

Item 21. **POI:** 8525 Treybrooke Drainage Problem - No Action. (Open)

Item 22. **POI:** Moye School Detention (1064 Oxford Hill Drainage Problem) – No

POI: Point of Information

AI: Action Item

Action. (Open).

Item 23. **POI:** 314 Joy Drainage Problem – No Action. (Open).

Item 24. **POI:** 506 N. Cherry Drainage Problem – No Action. (Open).

Item 25. **POI:** 878 Misty Valley Sump Pump Drain Problem – No Action. (Open)

Item 26. **POI:** 861 Misty Valley Sump Drain Problem – No Action. (Open).

Item 27. **POI:** 621 Wintergreen Sump Pump Drain Problem – No Action. (Open)

Item 28. **POI:** Misty Valley Street End of Roadway Drainage - No Action. (Open)

Item 29. **POI:** Mulberry Ditch Drainage Problem – No Action. (Open)

Item 30. **POI:** 931 Crabapple Drainage Problem – No Action. (Open)

ADJOURNMENT: 9:07 P.M.

PREPARED BY: Heide Bell

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7:00 P.M., to be held in the Mayor's Conference Room or Council Chambers at City Hall dependent upon the number of visitors at the meeting.