



## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

4:00 PM July 5, 2023

City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room

### CALL TO ORDER

- Members Present: Councilor Gary Bode (no quorum)
- Council Present: Councilors Brent Lenssen and Kyle Strengholt
- Members Absent: Councilors Ron DeValois and Jerry Kuiken with notice
- Staff Present: Mayor Scott Korthuis; City Administrator John Williams; Public Works Director Jon Hutchings; Programs Manager Mark Sandal; and Sr. Admin. Assistant Jessica King
- Public Present: Gary Vis, Betty VanDyken, Robert Hicks, Lori Sipma, Kushdip Brar, Elisah Wright, Devin Crabtree, David Vos, Marty Gehring, Candy Hoksbergen

### ACTION ITEMS

**1. Approve Minutes from June 7, 2023**

Bode said approval of the June minutes will be delayed until the August meeting.

**Action**

***The Committee postponed approval of the minutes until the August meeting.***

**2. WWTP Maintenance Building Cost Estimate**

Hutchings distributed a summary of the design-build decisions to be considered for the WWTP Maintenance Building project. He reviewed justifications for a design-build process. A design-build proposal would allow for a fixed cost, and fixed delivery period, any issues would the contractor's responsibility through the entire process instead of the City's. He explained that this project would free up space required for the WWTP plant upgrades and eliminate the need for downtown storage space. He noted that a Public Works Trust Fund loan application will be submitted July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Under the current design-build proposal, the total project cost is \$6.4M for four bays and \$6.8M for five bays. These cost estimates include both the design and build components along with construction management and overhead. He also said that the City still needs to pay Trane \$467,000 for the 30% design whether the City moves forward with the build portion or not. Bode clarified that the City owns the design regardless of whether the contract with Trane is continued.

The Committee indicated a preference for the design-bid-build approach as it could save money overall. Korthuis suggested that staff do further research on that option.

**Action**

***The Public Works Committee concurred and recommended that staff do further research on the costs for a design-bid-build option for the WWTP Maintenance Building.***

**3. Award Bid for East Front Street Stabilization**

Len Honcoop Gravel was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

**Action**

***The Public Works Committee concurred to recommend that City Council award the bid for the East Front Street Stabilization project to Len Honcoop Gravel in the amount of \$270,771.75.***

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**4. Report on Pending Business:**

**Jansen Art Center Trees**

Hutchings said that Banham met with the Jansen Art Center representatives to discuss the trees. The City is waiting on plans from the Jansen Art Center before approving their request for street trees.

**Landfill Lease Amendment**

Hutchings said that this is still being worked on and staff plans to meet with Becerra soon.

**Community Center Parking Agreement Amendment**

Hutchings said this had been completed and given to Mr. Herman.

**5. Request for Flashing Lights or Advanced Warning Signs at Depot Road and Homestead Boulevard Intersection**

**Action**

***The Public Works Committee concurred and requested to have staff evaluate signage and place traffic counters in the area to monitor vehicle speeds.***

**6. Stormwater – Fecal Coliform Counts**

Vis asked if a DNA test could be done on the fecal coliform to see what the source was. Hutchings said this was something that could be done if the City wanted to pay for it and he will work on getting costs for this with Exact Scientific Services in Ferndale.

**Action**

***The Public Works Committee concurred and requested that staff obtain cost estimates for DNA testing of fecal coliform.***

**7. WSDOT Culvert Replacement Detour Route**

Hutchings reminded the Committee that this work will be done after the fair.

## 8. PeaceHealth Construction Update

## 9. Projects Update

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **10. 406 & 408 Front Street Parking Proposal**

Hicks, owner of the New Crescent Building at 406 and 408 Front Street and the business Hats Off, presented a proposal for exclusive use of the City's 4<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot to support their business and future residents. He requested three permitted parking spots on 4<sup>th</sup> street to meet his off-street parking requirements and accommodate the three residential apartments that are in the final phase of his construction.

Lenssen and Bode explained to Hicks that there's a cost for this request so that there's also a return for the taxpayers. They explained there would also need to be a reasonable schedule for permitted parking times. Bode said it would be a similar agreement to the Wes Herman/Woods' Coffee parking agreement with a certified monetary value showing that they are renting the public property from the City.

#### **Action**

***The Public Works Committee concurred and agreed to work with Mr. and Mrs. Hicks on an agreement for use of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot.***

#### **11. Fluoride Discussion in City Water**

Bode noted that several guests have attended today's meeting to express their concern about fluoride in the municipal water supply. In addition, Bode also expressed that he is against the addition of fluoride in the municipal water supply. He stated that Lynden began adding it in 1959 [this needs to be verified]. Hutchings distributed the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report that lists the amount of fluoride, among other chemicals, in City water.

VanDyken, Hoksbergen, Brar, Wright, Crabtree, and Strengholt each spoke against the addition of fluoride in the municipal water supply.

VanDyken suggested that fluoride should only be prescribed, and that Lynden takes away the right to have the option.

Sipma has concerns about children as it relates to the fluoride.

Brarr expressed concerns that one size does not fit all for the dosage. She expressed concern about the consent and the liability and suggested that the residents should be surveyed for their opinion.

Wright, a former Navy nurse, spoke regarding the information on the MSDS sheet she obtained from the Water Treatment Plant. She expressed concern about the fluoride exposure to infants and the vulnerable population.

Crabtree said he was chief water operator of Whatcom County, also had previously worked for Alcoa. He said that he personally saw the effects of fluoride with the people that he worked and the surrounding farmlands.

Hoksbergen asked why the City is using an industrial waste product in the water and is it true that employees wear hazmat suits when adding chemicals to the water. She expressed concern about her family's health and exposure to fluoride. Bode said that yes, employees do wear hazmat suits to work with the fluoride

Strengholt said that he thought the reason fluoride was added to the water supply was to help community members who don't have access to dental care. Strengholt said that he personally had fluorosis markings on his teeth from exposure.

Bode discussed the difference between the medical fluoride after that and the industrial fluoride. He asked does natural fluoride have the same effects as the added fluoride.

Vis asked if there was research to compare dental health between those who drink the fluoridated water from Lynden and Lummi Nation to other non-fluoridated areas of Whatcom County.

Lenssen requested that staff provide MSDS sheet on all chemicals added to the municipal water supply.

**Action**

***The Public Works Committee concurred and requested that staff provide MSDS sheets for all chemicals used in water treatment for municipal distribution, the initial source and annual cost (including system maintenance and labor) of fluorosilicate acid, and the dosing system used to add fluoride to the water. Additionally, the Committee requested research between communities with and without fluoridated drinking water.***

**12. Cedar Drive Neighborhood**

Vos requested an update on the Cedar Drive project, expressing frustration about the length of time it was taking to get the project started. Sandal said that staff are reviewing design issues, noting that there is a property boundary dispute between two neighbors that is directly related to the proposed location of a pump station.

The Committee discussed the need for a pump station and whether the project could move forward without one.

**Action**

***The Public Works Committee concurred to have staff review the need for pump station and follow up at a future Public Works Committee meeting.***

**13. Airport Open House July 29th**

Hutchings reminded everyone that the Airport Open House is Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. The event is open to the public. Airport Board members will attend the next Public Works Committee meeting to introduce themselves and give a follow-up to the event.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** August 9, 2023