



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

4:15 PM February 13, 2020

City Hall 2nd Floor Large Conference Room

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Scott Korthuis; Councilors Gary Bode, Ron De Valois, and Brent Lenssen

Members Absent: Jerry Kuiken with notice

Staff Present: City Administrator Mike Martin; Public Works Director Steve Banham; Programs Manager Mark Sandal; Administrative Office Manager Heather Sytsma; and Sr. Admin. Assistant Miriam Kentner

Public Present: Gary Vis, Don Korthuis, Steve Moore

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. **Approve Minutes from January 8, 2020**

De Valois motioned to approve the minutes and Bode seconded the motion.

Action

The minutes from January 8, 2020 were approved.

B. **Revise Sewer Rate Categories to include Mobile Home Parks**

Banham presented 2020 Budget Addendum C – Amended Sewer Rates which has been amended to include a separate rate structure for mobile homes. The rates will be effective retroactively to January 1, 2020. Banham noted that the Finance Department will present this at the Finance Committee and bring to City Council on Tuesday, February 18th.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred with the new rate structure and recommended City Council approval pending Finance Committee concurrence.

C. **West Front Street EDI Presentation to County Council**

Banham stated that Mayor Korthuis presented the City's request for EDI funds to Whatcom County Council Finance Committee and they voted 2 to 1 against awarding the funding to the City of Lynden as presented but indicating they would be open to considering a revised request. As a result of this vote, staff has prepared a resolution which shows the City's intent to use EDI funds to improve West Front Street. Banham stated staff will present another proposal to Whatcom County Council again in March or April.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to forward the Resolution supporting the EDI Loan/Grant to City Council with their recommendation for approval and for staff to make another request and presentation to Whatcom County Council with this resolution in support.

D. National League of Cities Service Line Project

Banham presented an NLC Service Line Warranty Program which would allow private property owners to insure their service line beyond the City's water meter. Banham stated this could increase public awareness of what part of sewer and water lines are private owned.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to deny support for this service in Lynden and requested that staff work to consider other alternatives for raising public awareness about property owner responsibilities maintenance of sewer laterals and water service lines beyond the sewer main or water meter.

E. Faith Community Church (586 Birch Bay Lynden Road) Request for Fire Protection, New Service for Parks and Berthusen Water Association Wholesale Agreement

Banham explained the request to connect to City water utilities which will allow adequate fire flow for this facility. Banham noted that it will be the church's sole responsibility to obtain permits and easement and to construct a main extension and water service line from the existing City waterline on Berthusen Road to the church.

As a side-note, staff has been notified by the Parks Director that the service line to the house at Berthusen Park repeatedly freezes during cold weather as the exposed water line runs across the bridge in the park. Banham noted that this service is provided by Delta Water Association. However, there is water service available from Berthusen Water Association that is located on the east side of Bertrand Creek and is not exposed to the weather. This line is currently used to serve the Tractor Club facility, and the Parks Director has requested to contact Berthusen Water Association regarding providing a connection for the Berthusen Park house.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to support the need for water for fire service at Faith Community Church and for staff to provide a letter to the Church to this effect. The Committee further agreed to support work by staff with Berthusen Water Association to obtain a new water service for the City-owned residence in the Berthusen Park under an updated Wholesale Agreement with the Berthusen Water Association.

F. Discuss Using Municode Meetings to Organize and Publish Public Works Committee Agenda and Minutes

Banham stated that staff is considering, at the request of some Council members, using Municode, an online platform currently used for City Council meeting and agenda management, for Committee meetings. Banham explained that this platform could be accessed Council members using a City-issued tablet.

Action

The Public Works Committee concurred to support the use of Municode for Committee meeting and agenda management.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2019 Accomplishments Report

Banham presented the 2019 Accomplishments report highlighting major accomplishment in the past year.

B. Eastwood Way – Thalen Drive Pedestrian Island – Discuss Removal

Banham stated the City has received multiple requests to remove the pedestrian island on Thalen Drive. The Public Works Committee concurred to support the removal of the pedestrian island.

C. Projects:

1. Industrial Condensate- Riverview to Outfall – Draft Easements

Sandal explained that the SEPA review was submitted to the Planning Department and he is currently working on easement documents. Sandal also received appraisal document back and is waiting for the property owners to review them and provide feedback.

2. Industrial Condensate - Darigold Stormwater to Fishtrap Creek

Sandal stated that the Phase 3 project currently being constructed by Faber Construction is progressing slowly and final paving should occur in early March.

3. 7th Street Revitalization Project

Sandal explained that this project should resume in early March. Sandal noted that the pothole near the post office in the alley was repaired yesterday.

4. Trails - Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) – Visiting Site Prior to Next Funding Cycle; Application Due 2020; Contract Execution 2022

Sandal stated that the RCO held a webinar today highlighting the next funding cycle. Applications are due May 1, 2020, but funding won't be awarded until July 2021.

5. Lynden Fire Station RFQ

Banham stated the planned Lynden Fire Station Renovation project was a featured article in the Lynden Tribune. The Request for Qualification was published February 12th with a due date of March 4th.

4. ITEMS ADDED:

A. Emergency Declaration

Banham presented the City's emergency declaration, signed by the Mayor, for the Flood Events that happened on January 31, 2020. The Emergency Declaration will remain in effect until the issuance of a Termination Proclamation.

B. Pepin Lite Solution

The Committee briefly discussed the "Pepin Lite" proposal that is an initial phase of construction and will be discussed at the Community Development Committee meeting on February 19th.

C. Winter Storm and Flooding Damage

Banham stated he is currently compiling preliminary damage estimates from the recent storm events to provide the Whatcom County Emergency Management and plans to bring that information to a future meeting.

D. Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Proposal

Banham stated that a “Managed Aquifer Recharge” project is being investigated by staff. This involves moving water from the Nooksack River in the winter and allowing it to permeate into an aquifer where it will slowly move back to the river so that there is more cool water returning during the summer months. Banham and Sandal explained that staff have met with a number of stakeholder including local tribes who appear to support the proposal because it adds water to the river during a season of typically low water levels as well as providing mitigation water for an increased City municipal water right (Qa). Banham stated that staff is still investigating favorable locations for withdrawing the water and areas where the hydrogeology would be correct to absorb the water into the aquifer with sufficient travel time back to the river. The City will be seeking Department of Ecology grant funds for this project and will provide a more extensive presentation to the Committee in March prior to submission of the application at the end of March.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

DRAFT