

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Commission members present: Alders Bartz, Romlein, Ruetten, Wetzel, Commr. Thompson

City employees present:

Public Works Director/City Engineer Jaynllen Holloway

Assistant City Engineer Andrew Beyer

Waste Water Treatment Manager Peter Hartz

Street Department Office Manager Stacy Winkelman

City Attorney Steve Chesboro

Citizens present: Dan Rehfeldt, John Kaliebe, Scott Lovrune (sp), Joe Hertel, Jim Hertel, District 6 Alderperson Fred Smith.

1. Chairman Wetzel called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Comments and suggestions from citizens present

John Kaliebe expressed concern that sections of the Main St. street lights are out. He shared two personal evening/night near miss pedestrian incidents. He also expressed a desire that residents be able to purchase the Cady Street bridge art as the bridge is getting refurbished.

3. Review and approve minutes from August 10, 2022

Motion to approve Ald. Romlein

2nd Ald. Ruetten

Carried by unanimous voice vote

4.a. Cady Street Bridge 2023 Rehabilitation Project update and public information meeting

The City of Watertown received Wisconsin Department of Transportation funding to rehabilitate the Cady Street Bridge and extend its service life by approximately twenty years. The Local Bridge Program covers 80% of construction project costs using State/Federal funds with the remaining 20% being funded through the project sponsor (City). The proposed project scope of work includes removing the existing concrete overlay (originally installed in 1989); install a new concrete overlay to protect the bridge deck slab; concrete surface repairs to sidewalk, deck, and piers; and bridge approach reconstruction. Additional bridge railing repair work may also be included in the project scope of work. The City has worked closely with WisDOT and the City's consulting design engineer, Ayres Associates, to potentially advance the rehabilitation project from 2026 to 2023 with the intention of having the Cady Street Bridge rehabilitated and in good order prior to the Main Street (Cole Memorial) Bridge Reconstruction project scheduled for 2025 (advanceable date for reconstruction is 2024). Cady Street is currently the designated pedestrian detour route during the Main Street (Cole Memorial) Bridge Rehabilitation project. WisDOT staff has stated that the timeline for the 2023 Cady Street Bridge Rehab project is tight but is working with the City to meet 2023 project deadlines. WisDOT has also stated that the 2023 advanceable project date is not guaranteed and may be postponed depending on the following: DNR project approvals, asbestos inspection results, endangered species (bats), historical concerns, Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics coordination, etc. Dan Sydow and Chris Olson of Ayres and associates presented the proposed refurbishing of the bridge with PowerPoint scheduled for 2023. This is a State led project. The City would like to begin construction on July 5 especially since St. Henry School is immediately up the street. The State has warned of compelling commencement and ending dates as this could increase the cost.

Ald. Bartz asked if DNR needs approval or reviews of the project. Chris stated that environmental constraints will be included in the scope of the work.

Ald. Romlein asked if the City could require a first alternate. The DNR does not allow these.

4.b. Jenny Newlun of N710 N Water Street has requested solid waste and recycle service from the City of Watertown. The City already services some neighbors. The cost would be \$19.08/month the amount to be billed to said residence..

Motion to approve Ald. Ruetten

2nd Ald. Bartz

Carried by unanimous voice vote

4.c. Review and discuss: Country Club Lane sanitary sewer backups. Review and discuss – Rain Event on June 15, 2022 – surface flooding, basement backups and response plans during rain events or power outages.

Dan Rehfeldt of Country Club Lane shared with the council that when area power goes out for an extended period his basement floods. He would like to see a generator at the lift station near his house.

Waste Water Treatment manager Pete Hartz suggested that the water back up is quite possibly caused by surface water runoff and good possible remedy would be to install a check valve at Mr. Rehfeldt's residence. Mr. Rehfeldt had an area plumbing service check this solution out at his house and was told it was not a viable option.

Ald. Romlein suggested using UPS (Uninterrupted Power Source) at the lift station to give the City crews extra time to service the various lift stations.

Alder Ruetten found on the prioritized list of new generators that the two in question (Country Club and 18th hole) are #6 and #11. Looking at approximate costs it would take a minimum of \$300K plus setup and engineering fees to purchase #6.

Alder Smith (non-committee member) stated that we have potential infiltration problems throughout the City and it is known that Country Club has extraordinary problems. He suggested that the City strive to add two generators per year in the Public Works budget to alleviate these flooding issues and that funds may be available through ARPA funding.

Alder Ruetten stated that he is not comfortable with overstepping the generator replacement priority schedule set forth by Hartz. This opinion was shared by Alders Bartz and Wetzel. He also stated that it is feasible to put two generators into one yearly budget.

Hartz said that a space for a bigger easement on Country Club would be needed. Mr. Rehfeldt agreed.

This was an actionable item but it was agreed to seek to get two generators in the 2023 budget. Hartz shared that 42 weeks is the generator lead time.

4.d. Review and take possible action: Amend Chapter 24, Article IV, §24-8 (C)(1) Public Works Commission. Earlier this year, City Attorney Chesebro brought forth to Common Council housekeeping ordinance updates for its review and approval. The Common Council approved them. He recently identified another housekeeping ordinance update. He pointed out that the statement, "It may appoint a manager" was vague and needed clarification. Attorney Chesebro offers the following ordinance amendment: *"It may appoint a manager. It appoints the Public Works Director/City Engineer as manager."* The justification for the ordinance amendment is that the Public Works Director/City Engineer oversees the Public Works Department, of which the Water Utility and Wastewater Utility are divisions under. Attached is the ordinance and draft ordinance amendment for your review.

Motion to approve Ald. Romlein

2nd Ald. Ruetten

2 yes and 3 no's

Comm'r. Thompson asked if there is a need to clarify as the PWD/CE is already the project manager. Attorney Chesboro said he would agree to strike the line. Comm'r. Thompson motioned to strike the words "it may appoint a manager."

Motion Comm'r. Thompson

2nd Ald. Wetzel

Carried by unanimous voice vote

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Ald. Romlein

2nd Ald. Bartz

Carried by unanimous voice vote

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Wetzel

Public Works Commission Chair

Note: These minutes are uncorrected, and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.