

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

5:30 p.m.

The Public Works Commission met on the above date and time. The following members were present: Alderpersons Brad Blanke, Dan Bartz, Myron Moldenhauer, and Tony Arnett (remote); Citizen member Pete Thompson. Also present: City Staff Andrew Beyer, Pete Hartz, Maureen McBloom, Richie Piltz.

1. **Call to order.** Chairperson Arnett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Comments and Suggestions from Citizens Present.** None.
3. **Review and take possible action. Minutes of PWC meeting of August 25.** Mr. Bartz moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
4. **Motion to alter the order of the agenda.** Mr. Bartz moved and Mr. Moldenhauer seconded to move Item C (2025 Stormwater Program) ahead of Item B (2025 Stormwater Utility Rate Study Update). Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
5. **Review and take possible action: Sidewalk repair order for 1119 N. Fourth Street.** Mr. Moldenhauer moved and Mr. Blanke seconded to approve the sidewalk repair order. Mr. Bartz asked if this was due at all to tree roots. Staff confirmed it was, and that the roots would be cut as part of the fix. The repair will be delayed until a seasonal time when it is safer (for the tree) to cut the root. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
6. **Update, no action required: 2025 Stormwater Program.** Ms. McBroom presented the update on the 2025 Stormwater Program. (See complete presentation in meeting materials.) A large focus is the MS4 permit, including TMDL. Water quality trading is being used to help reduce what would otherwise be a \$13 million cost to the city. The next MS4 permit is expected this fall. Another focus is the Westside creek system study. Mr. Blanke asked if “cure in place” technique was used for stormwater sewer as it is for sanitary sewer. Mr. Beyer confirmed it is.
7. **Review and take possible action: 2025 Stormwater Utility Rate Study Update.** Steve Wurster and Bridgot Gysbers from Ruekert Mielke presented the Stormwater utility rate study. (Note: Mr. Arnett stepped away from the meeting at this time.) Stormwater utility rates were last increased in 2020 and are currently deficient to produce the revenue required. Three options were presented, ranging from \$1.47 to \$3.25 extra per month for the typical single-family home. Commission members had questions about long-term costs, possibly staggering the costs (to delay some), and the MS4 permit-related costs. Mr. Blanke also noted this is the second utility where rate increases should have been made years ago but were not, resulting in larger increases being needed now. (He also noted this was not the fault of city staff.) He emphasized the importance of getting on a schedule of annual inflation-based increases. Staff will bring additional information about financial options to “smooth” out the increase to the next Commission meeting. Mr. Moldenhauer moved and Mr. Thompson seconded to postpone this topic until the meeting on October 13th. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

8. **Review and discuss: Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Overview.** Mr. Beyer presented a brief overview of the 5-year capital improvement plan (CIP) for background information to Commission members. (See complete presentation in meeting materials.) Mr. Blanke asked how much “cure in place” is done each year. Mr. Hartz indicated it varies based on what money is left in capital for the year after the major reconstruction is accounted for. Mr. Bartz asked how it works to determine the annual streets amount versus the borrowing fund. The borrowing tends to be for reconstruction and resurfacing. (Note: Mr. Arnett returned at this time.) Mr. Arnett noted that he plans to push for additional borrowing for streets for 2026 of at least another \$500,000 and he asked for the other Alderpersons on the Commission to support that request in the annual budget process.
9. **Review and take possible action: Street resurfacing and reconstruction approach.** Mr. Arnett asked Mr. Blanke to introduce this topic as he had originally requested it. Mr. Blanke asked generally if it was practical and possible to find sufficient streets in poor enough condition that were not likely to be reconstructed or resurfaced in the near future that some other form of maintenance could be performed on them in the near term (thereby both renewing the road surface as well deferring the eventual resurfacing or reconstruction.) Staff confirmed there were sufficient streets that would meet this criteria. There was discussion of what this other form of maintenance might look like (such as milling less than a typical “full depth” resurfacing.) Staff will investigate if there are other newer methods to consider between crack sealing and mill and overlay, such as “microsurfacing”.
10. **Adjournment.** Mr. Moldenhauer moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m., seconded by Mr. Blanke. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Arnett, Chairperson