

**Police & Fire Committee
Public Works Committee
March 25, 2021, Minutes**

Present: Buchanan, Kamlitz, Steele, Schloegel, Geroux and Hellekson, Blackmore, Blinsky, Dillman, Hanson, Laber, Michel, O'Neill, Reuther, Rowell, Sveum, and Veil. Absent: Heinrich.

POLICE & FIRE COMMITTEE

Chair Buchanan convened the committee at 4:00 p.m.

Buchanan thanked all the first responders for their excellent service, and being prepared and willing to serve the community at all times and under all circumstances. Buchanan highlighted the state of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community by reading a statement from Robin Iszler, Central Valley Health District. Steele provided information he learned from the Johns Hopkins University web site, which includes ND as one of the top 10 states in vaccinations. Steele thanked Central Valley Health District for their work.

Assistant Police Chief Blinsky provided a general update for the Police Department and the Municipal Court. Blinsky stated that officers are busy with subpoenas for District Court since jury trials restarted, and delivering junk notices since the snow has melted. Blinsky urges the public to begin spring cleaning and disposing to minimize the junk. Blinsky stated that there is an increase in suspicious activity calls, which is good because people are aware and reporting. He reminds people to lock doors and vehicles, and call 9-1-1 if you see something suspicious. The Running of the Green event is April 17, a month later this year, which makes some things unknown and Blinsky reminds everyone to be safe so they can have fun.

Fire Chief Reuther stated that firefighters started Monday meeting drills. Eighty percent of the department has been vaccinated. Fire inspections are ongoing. The firefighters just received first aid training and will receive hazardous materials operations recertification in April. The City Fire Department is receiving questions on open fire pits within the city. Since it is currently very dry, the Chief Reuther cautions people on the protocols. Chief Reuther responded to a question regarding the Mutual Aid Agreement to assist with Rural Fire. Chief Reuther stated that the jaws of life equipment is ready and training was conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Chair Steele convened the committee at 4:15 p.m.

City Engineer Dillman explained that the old ND State Hospital water line that runs under I-94 has to be isolated and filled per the NDDOT requirements, but it is a difficult process due to the aged infrastructure and the fact that the line is still under some pressure.

Schloegel moved to recommend the City Council approve Change Order No. 4 to Scherbenske, Inc., for construction on 2020 State Hospital Water Line District 20-62, for a net increase in the contract price of \$27,590.09. Seconded by Kamlitz. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Engineering Technician II Hanson provided information about the Seal Coat, Patching, Construction & Reconstruction District 21-41 project.

Buchanan moved to recommend the City Council award the bid for 2021 Seal Coat, Patching, Construction & Reconstruction District 21-41 to Border States Paving, Inc, in the amount of \$1,448,012.25, below the engineer's estimate of \$1,960,240.00. Seconded by Kamlitz. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Engineering Technician II Michel provided information about the Sidewalk, Curb & Gutter District 21-11 project.

Buchanan moved to recommend the City Council award the bid for 2021 Sidewalk, Curb & Gutter District 21-11 to LD Concrete, in the amount of \$55,002.50, below the engineer's estimate of \$57,718.75. Seconded by Schloegel. Michel noted that the second bidder, Strata Corporation was at \$96,0037.50. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Sanitation Foreman O'Neill stated that the department would have individual collections as scheduled by the property owner or tenant rather than a one-week curbside collection. Steele noted that he has received questions about holding a citywide curbside cleanup similar to previous years. City Administrator Hellekson noted that it was cancelled in early 2020 due to a possible spring flood event, and was not budgeted for 2021. O'Neill stated that other cities like Fargo hire 30 part-time staff to conduct similar events but we can't do that. O'Neill stated that no other ND city provides free monthly disposal of 500 pounds to residents. Hellekson stated that the citywide curbside collection is a large expense and is inequitable as it is not available to apartment residents, nor to commercial properties. O'Neill stated that there were issues of people misusing the curbside cleanup, creating messes or scattering piles of junk, hiding unacceptable items in extremely large piles of junk, dumping items at properties of others, dumping items on the street, and scavenging. Steele noted that the fuel costs, advertising, mail and education and other costs are not included in the estimated cost. Steele requested that this agenda item be forwarded without recommendation so that Mayor Heinrich could provide his opinion.

Buchanan moved to forward, without recommendation, to the City Council extending the hours at the City Baler for a drop-off the week of May 10 through 14, 2021. Seconded by Kamlitz. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Sanitation Foreman O'Neill explained the proposal to address a longer-term, more cost-effective alternative to a citywide cleanup week that would also assist those who do not have a way to get their junk to the Baler for disposal. O'Neill explained that anyone could purchase a sticker for \$5 from the Sanitation Department, schedule the collection with the Sanitation Department, put the sticker on the item, and place the item at the curb for collection at the scheduled date and time. O'Neill noted that the program would use two staff and a pickup truck for most collections. O'Neill explained that staff would only collect what is scheduled and marked with a sticker, so it shouldn't be as time-consuming for staff, nor such an eyesore for the community as the clean-up week. O'Neill confirmed that this is a pilot program and is ready to begin in June. Hellekson responded to a question that unless the need arises earlier, O'Neill could report on the program's progress in August. Steele stated that allowing people in apartment buildings to participate would be helpful and running it as a trial is a good idea. Schloegel stated he likes this idea. Schloegel stated that other cities have similar programs.

Schloegel moved to recommend the City Council approve a bulk pickup pilot program beginning June 1, 2021, at a cost of \$5 per item for residents and property owners. Seconded by Kamlitz. Unanimous aye vote. Carried.

Hellekson provided a summary of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project AE2S update.

Water Superintendent Rowell responded to questions about the local aquifer.

City Engineer Dillman provided project updates.

Written garbage and recycling collection updates were provided.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Sarah Hellekson, City Administrator