

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO
SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 14, 2020

This Service Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:14 p.m. by Mike Lampa, Chairman.

PRESENT: Mike Lampa, Jon Hannan, John Ruediger, Jennifer Wagner, Julie Field

ABSENT: Chuck Kocisko

ALSO PRESENT: Frank Beni, Law Director
[by Zoom video conferencing:]
Justin Ring, Council Member
Glenn Broska, Mayor
Tricia Wain, Police Chief
Robert Reinholz, Fire Chief
Jenny Esarey, Finance Director
Joe Ciuni, City Engineer
Bill Miller, Service Director
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Sara Fagnilli, Assistant Law Director/Prosecutor
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

MOTION: TO EXCUSE MR. KOCISKO.

Moved by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mr. Ruediger. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Disposition of Minutes

None.

Old Business

Update on Forest Valley Development

Mr. Ruediger said this issue had been mentioned at the last Service Committee Meeting and he had talked to some Forest Valley residents again today and things were still not moving along as they had hoped. He said some things were done: the trees had been planted, the street lights were up, and the greenspace had been leveled. But the drain in the yard at the top of the hill was six inches too high and the water just collected and didn't drain. The homeowner at the top of the hill said the Mayor had promised her new property pins, which had never come in as discussed a couple meetings ago. She also stated that her area was worse than ever since the greenspace area had been leveled. She had heard at a meeting that the drain on her property, that was to take away all the water, was to

be lowered, but it never was and it wasn't doing anything. The homeowner also stated the weeds at the detention ponds had not been eliminated yet just cut back and there was no fence installed around the detention ponds yet. She had said as a community they were not fond of the outcome and she was disappointed. She felt the City wasn't following up on this enough and it had been going on for far too long and wasn't progressing as it should be.

Mr. Ruediger asked Mrs. Fagnilli for an update. Mrs. Fagnilli said, for the neighbors to say nothing had progressed was not true. The City had reacted to the neighbors' requests and complaints pretty heavily. Although they were done late, a lot of items were done once the bonding company was put on notice, i.e. most if not all the street trees were in, the lights were in, the sidewalks were done, the landscaping had been leveled at the top of the hill. They were treating the detention ponds and had to treat them more than once because they were having issues getting rid of the weeds/growth, but it was working a bit better. Mrs. Fagnilli had reached out to the developer again last week, but got nothing on the detention ponds or fencing although she had 4 emails from him over the last 3-4 months saying he would put up the fencing. She understood it had been difficult in the summer to get a contractor or get the materials because home improvement was in high demand during this pandemic, but in her last email she explained in no uncertain terms that the City would go back and correspond with the bonding company representative. The City had stopped doing that because all the work was getting done and the developer was doing what the City was asking him to do, but on Friday she had told him the City would reengage the bonding company so the City could get some action on this last item that needed to be done.

Mr. Ciuni added that GPD had done an existing conditions survey of the drain in the yard at the top of the hill (sublot 12) and found that drain was within 4/100 of where it was designed to be. He said there was some significant landscaping that the homeowner had done in her backyard that had changed the way it was graded. He said that drain was where it was supposed to be according to the plan and it would have worked fine but there was some significant landscaping in that backyard (rocks, boulders, waterfall) so if there were water issues, that is what caused it. He was willing to talk with the homeowner if Council wanted him to.

Mr. Ciuni confirmed everything Mrs. Fagnilli mentioned; the developer had made progress, but at some point the City needed to call the bonding company again and that's what Mrs. Fagnilli was doing. He acknowledged the detention ponds still needed work to get rid of the weeds and get the fencing installed. If the developer didn't respond, the City's recourse was the bonding company.

Mr. Ruediger asked about the homeowner's property pins that had been removed and needed replaced. Mrs. Fagnilli thought she'd been told that they had reestablished those pins. Mr. Ciuni said he'd also been told they had reset the pins and that was done; he would go and check on it again.

Mr. Ruediger thanked everyone for their work and input on this. He accepted their professional opinion that the significant change in landscaping was causing the drainage issues at the top of the hill. It seemed the biggest issue was just still the detention ponds. He would relay to the neighbors that it was something the City was still going to continue to press the developer on. Mrs. Fagnilli said her next email would be to recopy the bonding company representative because this was

unacceptable and the City/neighbors had waited long enough and been told numerous different things that would lead the City to believe this would be done, and it needed to be done. With winter it was likely those detention ponds would be dry, so there wasn't as big a risk issue without the fencing there, but as soon as spring rains arrived again, that would be another problem so it needed to be addressed pretty quickly.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO THE JANUARY SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR FURTHER FOLLOW UP.

Moved by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Discuss Final Grade Inspection Fee/Requirement /

T-6950 Amend Code Regarding Building Inspections and Related Fees

Mr. Ruediger said Council had received a copy of the proposed legislation with the proposed change to fees in Section 1305.03 (b) and (c) and Section 149.04 (k) of \$500 per inspection. He felt if the administration was comfortable with this, he was satisfied.

MOTION: TO SEND THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOR FIRST READING.

Moved by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

New Business

T-6943 Accept Bid for Basketball Courts

Mr. Mytinger said bids had been received and GPD reviewed them and submitted a recommendation for award to a contractor for the City Park basketball courts. The low bid was \$83,800 from N.E.S. Corporation. Mr. Ciuni reported that GPD had worked with N.E.S. Corporation in other communities and they had a good reputation and he expected they could easily complete this project on time and on budget, so GPD recommended N.E.S. Corporation for the job.

Mr. Hannan asked about the grant money to be used for this project. Mr. Mytinger explained that the grant was a reimbursable grant. After the project was completed the City would submit the reimbursement for the grant amount to ODNR. Mr. Hannan wondered if there was any part of this project that the City Service Department could do to save additional money. Mr. Mytinger said they had already planned to work with the Service Department to remove the existing concrete pad, the existing stage, and to move the electrical. He didn't think there was anything else the Service Department could do. There was a contingency of \$6,700 that may not be spent. Mr. Ciuni added that most of the items in the bid were specialty items that the City Service Department didn't do except maybe the underdrain, but it would be difficult to have both entities working on the project and break out only certain items.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-6944 Purchase Basketball Hoops

Mr. Mytinger said these would be the four basketball hoops and pads for the new City Park basketball courts. After a lot of research, they decided to go with the Mega Slam Hoops brand. The hoop height was adjustable, but these had locks so they could not be arbitrarily changed. He hoped to get this project done early in the year so the department could offer some youth leagues in the spring, since the City could not offer that activities this winter.

Mr. Lampa noted a discount was mentioned in the quote, but the time period had expired. Mr. Mytinger confirmed the City would get the discounted price through December 30, 2020.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Ruediger. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-6945 Accept Donation of Shed from Lowe's

Mr. Mytinger said the department had to cancel the Holiday Lighting ceremony at Town Square due to COVID-19 and had planned to do a Santa's Workshop drive thru in City Park instead. The department had talked to Lowe's and they were kind enough to donate an 8' x 8' shed for the program. The shed was put up in City Park, but the department had to cancel the Santa's Workshop drive thru as well, but the shed was up and would be lit throughout the rest of December and then the department would use the shed to store all the Christmas decorations until the next season.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-6946 Declare 2004 Van Unneeded and Scrap as Junk Vehicle

Mr. Miller said this was a vehicle taken by the Police in a drug case. It had been parked behind the Service department for years. They wanted to scrap it out and put the funds received from the scrap into the DARE Fund #208-11-4163.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-6947 Payment of Fees for Emergency Traffic Signal Maintenance

Mr. Miller explained that Perram Electric, the company that did all the traffic lights for the City-wide signalization, had to do some repairs that weren't covered by warranty because they were due to car accidents. The City ordinances only authorized Signal Service to do emergency traffic signal repairs so Mr. Miller could not pay Perram Electric until this legislation got adopted. He planned to include Signal Service and Perram Electric in the 2021 ordinance so either company could do emergency repair work.

Mr. Hannan said he'd noticed twice that a car had hit a cross walk signal from the new signalization system. He asked if that was covered by insurance or if the City had to pay for those repairs. Mr.

Miller said there were at least three in that situation right now. He said the City would go ahead and fix it and pay for it, and then submit it to the Law Department to go through the courts to get it paid back through the driver's insurance.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-6948 Authorize Repairs to Dump Truck #900

Mr. Miller said after the last snow storm there were some major repairs needed on plow truck #900 so it was sent out to Cerni and it cost a little over \$11,000. This ordinance would authorize that expenditure so the department could get the plow truck back.

There was an original quote, but after Cerni started working on the truck they found more issues with it, so it was an additional cost. The second quote of \$11,657.71 should be the final quote. Truck #900 is a dump truck used as a snow plow truck just like all the other ones.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-6949 Amend Ord. No. 2020-57 to Allow Trade in of Wheel Loader

Mr. Miller said for the original ordinance (Ord. No. 2020-57) the actual bid for the new loader had a \$25,000 trade in value, which wasn't written into the original ordinance to allow the trade in. This amending ordinance would add that to the original ordinance so the department would have permission to trade in the wheel loader and get \$25,000 off the new loader.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Certification of Water Rates

Ms. Esarey had provided Council with a memo regarding the requirement that the Finance Director is to present the annual water rates to Council prior to them taking effect. This was done annually. Gene Roberts at Portage County had provided an email indicating the County was not looking to increase the water rates, so it would only be a 2% increase based on Ord. No. 2005-83. Her memo indicated the certification of amounts for 2021 and also indicated the Senior discount.

Mr. Lampa realized the 2% increase had been standard for years. He wondered when the City would take into account the water study that had been done last year and increase the rates further. Ms. Esarey answered it was up to Council whenever they wanted to start that discussion. She thought the last time it was talk about, it was decided not to raise any rates because of COVID-19, and maybe look at doing it in 2021. She noted that even though the water rates were certified, the City Council could change the rates at any point in time via ordinance. Mr. Lampa said he didn't want to increase rates in the current pandemic situation, but it did need to be looked at soon. Ms. Esarey agreed

because the City could not cover all the water infrastructure projects needed with the rate increases in place now.

Mrs. Kremer mentioned that Mr. Miller had provided a copy of the final Water Rate Study which was available in the Council Office for Council Members to review. Mr. Miller confirmed there were five or six rate increase options the City could select from.

Mr. Ruediger asked if there was any Council action needed since these water rates were following a 2005 ordinance. Ms. Esarey said the Code required the Finance Director to present the annual water rates so they could be certified. She couldn't remember if Council had a vote on the rates last year or not. The Clerk did not think there was any Council action last year because the Finance Director was to certify the rates to Council. But if Council wanted to acknowledge the new annual rates they could. Mr. Ruediger thanked Ms. Esarey for doing a wonderful job.

MOTION: TO TAKE NO ACTION AND TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL WATER RATES CERTIFICATION FROM THE FINANCE DIRECTOR.

Moved by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mr. Hannan. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Citizens' Comments

Ms. Esarey asked about the value of the van that was approved to be scrapped. Mr. Miller had mentioned that the amount received from the scrap company should be directed toward a DARE account line but there was no account number listed in ordinance T-6946. Ms. Esarey didn't think it should go into the account Mr. Miller had mentioned; she would prefer it go into Miscellaneous Receipts in the 208- Fund. Mr. Ring asked if it could go into the DARE Fund. Ms. Esarey said she could create a separate line item ("Miscellaneous Receipts," or "Scrap," etc.) within the 216- Fund because the DARE Fund was within the 216- Fund. She reiterated there was no account number listed in the ordinance, but she would make sure to do a specific line item in the DARE Fund under the 216- Fund to make sure that scrap amount (\$275) was obvious and clear. Mr. Ruediger asked if the ordinance needed to be amended in the Council Meeting later tonight to reflect the appropriate account number within the DARE Fund. Ms. Esarey said she had not been told this scrap amount would be something different, for the DARE Fund, because of the way it was acquired; usually the sale of assets was recorded in the General Fund #101-81-4181.

Announcements

A Regular Council Meeting will immediately follow this meeting.

There being no further business to be addressed by this committee, and upon motion by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mrs. Field, this meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Michael L. Lampa, Chairman