

Municipal Services Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:00 pm

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** Brooks called meeting to order at 5:04 pm.
2. **Roll Call.** Brooks and Lewis were present. Ladick was absent. Also present were: Rigg, Lindroth, Renly, Roberts, Mayor Hurlley and members of the public.
3. **Civility Reminder.**
4. **Agenda.** Motion to approve the agenda as presented moving items in Section 9 to follow Section 7. Lewis/Brooks. Motion passed 2-0.
5. **Minutes.** Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes as printed from the June 30, 2020 regular Municipal Services meeting. Brooks/Lewis. Motion passed 2-0.
6. **Citizen Appearances.** None.
7. **Customer concerns.** Rigg presented a bill where the customer was in between the prior expectations of pool sewer credits and Resolution 2020-15 passing adjusting the credits. The Committee agreed that it would be better to side on behalf of the customer. Motion to provide account 11-1230-00 a sewer credit of \$173.93. Brooks/Lewis. Motion passed 2-0 upon roll call.
8. **Director's Report**
 - a. **Parks and Recreation Report.** Geese Away devices have been installed. Signs saying "no Jumping Off bridge" will be installed. They are looking into some security lighting.
 - b. **AMI Project** (Placeholder). AMI Meter counts are 303 water meters remaining and 2 electric meters remaining. Brooks asked if this will be done so we can go to North Star software in 2021. Rigg said now that until it is safe to send staff into people's homes, we are on hold with the meter conversion and will not be able to update the software until all meters operating are AMI.
 - c. **Lake Leota Dam EAP/DFA Update.** The City got high marks on their grant approval. They are expanding the project due to the grant funding available to also fix the wall that partially collapsed early this year. Designs are expected to be done in December, approval by the DNR in spring and repairs starting after the Fourth of July celebration.
 - d. **Bridge Inspection.** Nothing to report.
 - e. **Road Safety Report.** Renly met with the Chamber and there were some concerns about losing a few parking spots but overall people were happy to see an improvement for pedestrian safety.
 - f. **Substation Update.** The new station is being installed by City crews. It is coming along nicely.
 - g. **5G Installation Update.** Renly said this is wrapping up with final contract. Questions from the public about public health and safety were brought up. Committee members and staff stated it is largely out of City control. City control is more limited to place

based on existing utilities or maybe traffic safety/vision. There is little the City can do because of FCC, Federal and State regulations.

- h. **Lateral Reimbursement.** Renly said that a contractor is seeking reimbursement for spending 3 days looking for a sewer lateral. Rigg stated that the contractor did not contact the Community Development Director, the Municipal Services Director or the DPW Foreperson for information on the sewer system but an employee who does not work on the sanitary sewer system to which the contractor is now blaming the City for poor information. Renly also stated the City never got final construction drawings from the developer to know where the lateral was placed and we were unable to share said information. Brooks mentioned that in previous meetings the City Engineer said the City like other cities has no responsibility on the contractor's exploration costs. Rigg asked the Committee to affirm denying the claim that is changing in costs with no documentation. Motion was made to take no further action and reject the claim. Brooks/Lewis. Motion passed 2-0.
- i. **Electric Journeyman Wages.** Renly stated annually MEUW asks its 80 plus members to participate in a salary survey. The City did and was able to get the data shared with the committee. Rigg said the data showed what was already suspected. The pay levels in comparable communities and utilities is less for Evansville workers excluding Kiel with Kiel having the potential to be higher as theirs was a range. Rigg asked for an intermediate step between now and finishing the budget. Rigg asked they recommend to Finance and Labor Relations an increase of \$1.00 an hour across the board and a potential range of \$2.00 depending on the approval of the Director and Foreperson. Motion was made as suggested by Rigg. Brooks/Lewis. Motion passed 2-0.

9. City Engineer Report

- a. **Sub-division/development updates.** Berquist said the path is being installed as part of a development agreement and 1st/2nd lifts are being installed in the developments on the west end of the City in early August.
- b. **Water Booster.** There was discussion about maintaining proper water pressure on developments in one area through grading the site and moving the dirt/fill throughout the development project. This was staffs preference over a city owned booster station. Berquist and Renly added that if there is a water pressure issue for a few homes with 2 stories, individual household boosters can be installed at a more affordable price and not be a City obligation in the future. The committee wants to hear more information as this develops.
- c. **Inflow and Infiltration Study.** Not much has occurred. There still has not been a large enough rain event over a lengthier time period to truly measure the system.
- d. **6th Street Greenway Water Retention.** Residents along 6th Street and Emmanuel Court spoke on their concerns about the proposed bike path. The committee heard their concerns. The committee's review relates to issues of storm water, construction adjustments and quality. The question on whether the path should or should not exist is part of the Smart Growth Plan. Renly and Berquist said the path design should not create any impediment for the flow of stormwater. There were questions as to moving the path to the other side of the swale however that is a major increase in construction costs and future obstructions with an added culvert or bridge. Staff were to evaluate options and communicate with those who still had concerns after the meeting.

10. Administrative Staff's Report

- a. **Stonewood Grove.** Motion to recommend a plat change to Stonewood Grove 1st Addition. Lewis/Brooks. Motion passed 2-0.
- b. **Settlers Grove.** Motion to recommend preliminary plat for Settlers Grove. Brooks/Lewis. Motion passed 2-0.
- c. **Sewer Credits.** Rigg presented new information regarding the previous practice of applying sewer credits. Recently this practice ended because there was no known record of board approved credits for pool fills and lawn watering. Rigg later found a document that showed there was an established credit system prior to the changes on June 11th. Given this new information the previous credits were likely part of the formal rate system until the June 11th change despite poor documentation and publication. Motion to approve staff to apply previous credit rates prior to the adoption of Resolution 2020-15. Brooks/Lewis. Motion passed 2-0 on roll call.
- d. **Water softener program.** Rigg had nothing to report at this time.
- e. **Moratorium Changes.** Rigg presented news the PSC is extending the COVID 19 moratorium to September 1, 2020. The committee discussed possible future actions.
- f. **CMAR.** Motion to recommend to Common Council Resolution 2020-18, review and Approval of the 2019 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report. Brooks/Lewis. Motion passed 2-0.
- g. **Solid waste Contract.** The Committee reviewed a cost matrix for service with 4 different providers. The Committee felt that John's disposal was priced out and the focus should remain with the three closer in price. They asked Council be given a more detailed comparison to know what would be purchased by the residents of Evansville.
- h. **Capital Budget.** Rigg shared the capital budget with the committee. There is more work to be done but this draft is the start of the detail.

11. WPPI Report

- a. **ESR.** Brooks let the Committee know that Corey Neely is no longer with WPPI and has started his own business related to energy. Replacement candidates are to be interviewed soon.
- b. **Other.** Brooks mentioned the Annual WPPI meeting on September 17th and 18. On October 15th there is a virtual WPPI orientation.

12. Old Business. None.

13. New Business. None.

14. Reminder. Upcoming Meeting Date, August 25, 2020

15. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn. Brooks/Lewis. Motion approved 2-0 at 7:44p.m.

James Brooks, Committee Chair

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