

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
2/20/24

Meeting called to order by Dougherty at 9:01am

Present: Ted Dougherty, Liam DelMain, Diane Fizell, Nancy Pearson

City Employees: Tom Kovachecich, Mike Burg, Josh Pearson, Dakota Weeks

Public:

Motion to approve minutes from last meeting - Approved

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No Public Comments

1. Old Business
 - a. Utility Operator - Closed the position last Thursday with four applications in. Josh would like to find a time to interview applicants next week. Hoping for a job start day of mid March.
2. Public Works Director - Salt & Sand
 - a. With the light winter we're having we are going to have a lot of leftover salt sand. We are sitting on 20 tons of salt still sitting with the salt company, if we don't get through it we get charged for storage. Hopefully we find a little more use for it, then store everything we can and tarp it to store for next winter.
 - b. We just found a water leak on 9th and Washington where we put a new blacktop patch. We will be addressing it with emergency measures directly after this meeting, the weather is good so hopefully it won't be too much of a problem.
3. Utility Operator Report
 - a. We had a question over the weekend about PFAS and what the city is doing about it. PFAS is a contaminant in drinking water, found in many other places as well. There has been a struggle to implement laws around limiting PFAS levels. In 2022 the state offered to pay cities to test their wells voluntarily, to get some baseline data. We decided to do that and our tests came back below the level of detection. The DNR has now decided that testing for PFAS is a part of our required regular testing. We tested again in 2023, and again tested below detectable levels in the city drinking water. Because the tests in 2022 were voluntary, the result data was not required to go on our annual report. In June 2024, the public report data will show the PFAS results from 2023.
4. Strand Task Order - GBWWTP
 - a. This document is the task order for the upgrade of the SCADA system at the Greater Bayfield Wastewater Treatment Plant. The PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers) we have right now are obsolete equipment, which means if they break or malfunction they cannot be replaced, so we need to replace them with more modern

5. North Sixth Street - Utility & Road Extension
 - a. We had a request come in from a gentleman who owns five lots on North 6th St, where there is yet no road. He wanted to know how he would get utilities and street access. Strand is getting us some numbers about what it would cost to open up N 6th St from Rice Ave. to Sweeney Ave, and put in sewer. The water comes down that easement already. Once we get numbers from Strand, we will contact the property owner, and if he is still interested in developing his property we will make a special assessment on all beneficiaries of the road opening, and move forward on full engineering and construction. The city would front the bill, then there would be a ten year payback period on the special assessment. If not all of the property owners approve of the special assessment, we would look at alternatives, either not expanding the road, or potentially giving just an easement for a driveway.
6. Budget
 - a. There is a glitch in the program, the expenditure and revenue lines are both titled "expenditure", and the lines are flipped bottom to top. The programmer is on vacation but they will get back to fixing this in their next update cycle. The numbers are all correct, the labels and formatting are just a bit off.
7. Set Next Meeting
 - a. Next meeting will be set for March 19th at 9am.

Motion to adjourn by Fizell, seconded by DelMain. All in favor.