

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

10/10/23

Meeting called to order by Dougherty at 9:02am

Present: Ted Dougherty, Liam DeMain, Nancy Pearson, Diane Fizell, Mel Whiteside

City Employees: Tom Kovachecich, Mike Burg, Dakota Weeks

Public: Mark Bahr(owner of Captain Spirits), Mayor Gordy

*Motion to approve amended agenda - Approved*

*Motion to approve minutes from last meeting - Approved*

Public Comment on Agenda Items

**Mark Bahr:** The area outside of our businesses, in front of the strip mall next to Captain Spirits down to the corner outside Grunky's, has been chronically under cleared in the wintertime, to the point where it is unsafe because of ice build up. There have been slip & falls, and if this continues property owners and the city could be held liable. The current enforcement system is not working and something needs to be done about this. This unsafe occurrence is unacceptable. Are there fines for non-compliance with the city clearing ordinance? Are these being enforced?

1. Old Business
2. Public Works Director
  - a. Applefest weekend went great! The Chamber really did a great job of taking the load of work off the city.
  - b. Will start mixing salt sand pretty soon here, and got a contract for everything we need this winter.
  - c. We'll be flushing the hydrants soon, water might run a little brown in the systems but running until it's clear should solve the problem. It's just a regular practice that stirs things up.
  - d. We'll be starting to shut campgrounds and bathrooms down soon, winterizing for the long season
3. Utility Operator Report
4. Shoveling Notice, Ordinance & E-mail
  - a. The Public Works director explained the ordinance as included in the meeting packet. Notice is sent out every year on November 1st to get everyone on board, sometimes we have law enforcement talk to someone when there is sidewalk not being cleared consistently. There are a few areas that are a fight every year to get them to do it.
5. 3% Water & Sewer Increase
  - a. When we had our last audit of the water & sewer system from the state, they found our rate of return is under the standard threshold, which means we are

eligible for a minor 3% increase of rates. We should do these when we can, otherwise you end up with massive increases that really scare people, talking over 40% rate increase. Rates should go into effect next year, they'll see their increase in April. Gives time to give everyone notices on their bills.

*Movement by Pearson to recommend to the city council to raise sewer and water rates 3% after the routes are read in February. Seconded by DelMain. All voted in favor.*

#### 6. LRIP Project

- a. The Local Road Improvement Program. This is an opportunity for grant funding from the state to improve our local road infrastructure. Traditionally when this grant comes around it is rotated between Washburn, Mason and us. Last time we got the money we used it for the new road around the fountain by East Dock Park. It's not a ton of money, but it helps, capped out at \$13K. It is not allowed to be used on repair, only on new road construction. This year Washburn is getting that money for their highway project.
- b. There are also 90/10 to 50/50 grants that can cover from half to most of a project. We have one shovel-ready project - the Manypenny Project - that we have all the numbers and data on ready to go, so we could apply for that project in the 90/10 funding grant. It's possible the committee decides to reimburse less, down to 50/50. We plan to apply with this project for this years funding.
- c. Rittenhouse Avenue from 7th to 9th St is the next on to get working on
- d. There are a number of other projects we need to do, but the money isn't really enough to cover any of them fully. We have a lot of water main issues under roads, and need to figure out how to be able to fund those repairs at the same time of fixing roads, otherwise the roads will just need to be ripped up again later.

#### 7. East Park

- a. At the last Parks & Rec meeting they decided to prioritize this East Dock project in their CIP list. They also discovered allegedly that the Wisconsin Coastal Management Project will not fund their project through the grant, so the correspondence included in this packet is no longer relevant.

#### 8. Retirement

- a. Tom Kovachevich has submitted a letter stating that he plans to retire from his position as Director of Public Works, and his last day of work will be on May 3rd.
- b. Public Works will need to put together a hiring committee, the listing for the position can be put out to internal staff first, then if there are no good candidates it can go out to the general public. We will have to decide on a hiring date, March 1st, 2024 would work well for the budget.
- c. Board members DelMain, Dougherty, and Mayor Ringberg volunteered for the hiring committee.

*Motion by Fizell to accept Tom's resignation (with remorse), seconded by Mell. All in favor.*

#### 9. Budget

- a. Budget is going smooth, no outstanding concerns at this time. Working on submitting CIP's (Capital Improvement Projects) to the city.

*Motion by Pearson to direct public works director and mayor to submit the applications proposed for LRIP funding, seconded by Mel. All in favor.*

*Next meeting will be held on November 14th at 9am.*

*Motion to adjourn by Pearson, seconded by Mel. All in favor.*