MINUTES
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2015

The Public Works Committee Meeting of Wednesday, January 7, 2015, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A of the Fairview Heights Municipal Complex. Those in attendance were Public Works Committee Chairman Scott Greenwald, Aldermen Dennis Baricevic and Roger Lowry of the Committee, Aldermen Pat Baeske and Denise Williams, staff members City Administrator Jim Snider, Public Works Director Chris Volkman and Jill Huffman.

ITEMS REPORTED:

1) APPROVE MINUTES: Alderman Lowry made a motion to approve the December 3, 2014 Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes; seconded by Alderman Baricevic. Motion carried, 3 – 0.

2) CITIZENS’ COMMENTS: None

3) PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT: Director of Public Works stated that the City Attorney reviewed and approved the contents of the Project Labor Agreement attached to the current Resolution. Alderman Lowry introduced Dale Stewart of the Southwestern Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council who Alderman Lowry requested attend the Public Works Committee Meeting should there be any questions. Mr. Stewart stated that the agreement is basically the same agreement from 2004. Committee stated that the Project Labor Agreement was adopted by the City in 1998 and requested that Mr. Stewart submit a 2004 Agreement to the City. The 2004 Agreement was handed to the Director of Public Works and explained that there has been two changes in the Agreement.

Discussed that a Project Labor Agreement, per the Illinois Municipal League, could add 25 percent to a construction contract. Mr. Stewart stated that is not fact and that some people are not in favor of a Project Labor Agreement and are in favor of the right to work. Discussed that if the City enforces stricter laws, perhaps developers will not build within the City and go elsewhere to build. It was stated that the Project Labor Agreement would only be enforced if a developer would request financial assistance from the City. Therefore, whenever taxpayer funds are used, local workers would be providing labor. A Project Labor Agreement does not restrict who builds in the City; it requires that the developer/contractor hire local people to work on the project.

Discussed that the main reason for the City to enforce the Project Labor Agreement is to utilize local labor when spending the City’s tax money.

Requested that Mr. Stewart submit to either the Director of Public Works or City Administrator a list of cities that currently enforce a Project Labor Agreement.
Alderman Lowry made a motion to forward a Resolution to City Council to enter into a Project Labor Agreement with the Southwestern Illinois Building Trades Council for and on behalf of its affiliates which sign a “Union Letter of Assent” (Signatory Union Affiliates) for the Project Labor Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the “Union” and apply to work performed by the employer and its contractors and subcontractors on construction within the City utilizing finances from the City of Fairview Heights; seconded by Alderman Baricevic. Motion carried, 3 – 0.

4) CARI DRIVE CUL-DE-SAC: Director of Public Works contacted Union Laborers Local 100 who stated they would oblige the City with additional land to construct a cul-de-sac at the west end of Cari Drive in exchange for additional time to construct their facility. Discussed that a cul-de-sac would allow City trucks an area to turn around and give the residents a separation from the facility and “no drive thru.”

5) I-64/IL-159 INTERCHANGE MAINTENANCE: Director of Public Works stated a memo was distributed to the Public Works Committee, City Council, City Administrator, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, and Public Works staff regarding the lawn and landscaping maintenance of the interchange and presenting two options for maintenance. It is staff’s opinion that it is in the City’s best interest to solicit bids from landscaping companies to perform the maintenance work. Discussed that the City’s staff should not be utilized for safety reasons.

Discussed if the contract should be a one-year or multi-year contract. The Director is to contact other municipalities to discuss their practices on bidding work for lawn/landscape maintenance.

Staff is to present a Request for Proposal for lawn and landscape maintenance to the Public Works Committee at the March meeting.

6) PROJECT UPDATES.

A) IL 159 / I-64 Enhancement Project – Some trees have been replaced. It could be late spring or early summer before the contract is closed.

B) Richmond Drive – Staff will solicit bids in January.

C) Greenridge Heights Road – Waiting on better weather to proceed with concrete paving of roadway. Discussed that the temporary road may be pushing the tie retaining wall at one of the resident’s property. Discussed the possibility of rebuilding the wall with interlocking block and sharing the cost with the owner. Also discussed a more gradual slope to the park.

D) Perrin Road – Waiting on weather to break.

E) Fox Creek Drainage Study – On Monday, January 12, and Tuesday, January 13, the consulting firm will be surveying east of Old Collinsville Road. Most of the drainage system has been established. When all of the information is input into the model, specific problems can be identified and addressed. The engineering work currently being performed is a continuation of previous engineering work.
Drainage swales are on private property, however, these areas receive roadway run-off as well as ground water run-off. It was stated that work may have to be performed on private property to remedy problems on the City’s right-of-way. Discussed the possibility of obtaining permanent drainage easements from residents.

An email to the residents regarding the status of the engineering work was distributed this week.

A final report will be presented at the March Public Works Committee Meeting.

F) Olinda and Minter – Director of Public Works stated that this month he will discuss with property owners the possibility of the City working on their properties to upgrade the roadway and adopt into the City’s street system. The Director will also contact the City’s attorney to discuss eminent domain and timeframe for same to acquire property. Regarding funding, the Director stated money would only be needed for legal fees. Repairs could be funded through the general fund.

Alderman Baricevic requested that a letter be sent from the City to the City of O’Fallon stating the City of Fairview Heights is not in favor of the sale of the water system to a private entity. The City Administrator stated he will compile a resolution and letter to present at the next Public Works Committee meeting regarding this matter. Discussed that if the City of O’Fallon would sell their water system to a large utility company, they would be regulated by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Also discussed, if the water system is sold to large utility company, the City of O’Fallon would lose control of rates and repair.

Chairman Greenwald adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Scott Greenwald, Chairman
Public Works Committee

SG/jmh