

**STREETS AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

June 13, 2011
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Soeldner
Jason Sladky
Jim Brey
Alex Olson
Allan Schema (arrive 6:38 p.m.)

STAFF PRESENT

Val Mellon
Sonja Birr
Randy Junk
Mike Huck

OTHERS

Gary Kennedy, 3500 Cty Hwy
Greg Matczynski, 1313 Westwood
Cary Klager, 1507 N. 8th St
Mike Check, 9140 Hilltop Rd
Beth Kischman, 1546 Main St
Mike Sgarioto, 843 Nicholas Ct.
Greg Wuensch, 4201 S. 26th St
J.J. Ploederl, 7816 Middle Rd
Pam Tuschel, 1509 Wollmer St

Approval of the Minutes from 5/23/11

J. Sladky made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2011 meeting. J. Brey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Discussion and possible action regarding a request for sign on S. 16th Street near Westfield Park

Pam Tuschel, 1509 Wollmer Street, was present to address her concerns with traffic speeding and parking too close to the intersections which causes safety concerns with the children/pedestrians in the area around Westfield Park. You can't see around the tower load trucks that are parked until you are in the lane of traffic.

J. Brey represents this district and voiced his opinion that a pedestrian crossing sign will not help. He believes this is more of a police enforcement issue. Also, parking within 15 feet of a crosswalk is currently being violated. Enforcement needs to be increased or the distance to stay back must be increased. He feels there is room for improvement.

J. Sladky asked if anyone has spoken with Phil Plesetz from Tower Tech. He has previously voiced his concerns with the traffic involving the Tower Tech trucks on N. 18th Street near Jackson School and Phil was very receptive.

D. Soeldner requested for Val to follow up with Tony Dick at the Police Dept. V. Mellon said she would have the Police Chief contact Phil at Tower Tech to address law enforcement concerns.

No further action was taken on this issue.

Discussion and possible action on storm lateral maintenance responsibilities

Jason Sladky reported a complaint from a constituent, experiencing problems with a storm lateral freezing in the winter. Luisier Plumbing televised the sewer this past Spring to determine the problem. There is a dip in the lateral causing it to freeze in the winter. J. Sladky wanted to know who owns the utilities under the ROW.

V. Mellon explained the ownership of the sanitary and storm sewers. The sanitary sewer is the responsibility of the property owner from the main to the house. The storm sewer ownership depends on if there is a mini-sewer in place. The mini-sewer program began in the 1980's and the City is responsible for the mini-sewers. The property owner is responsible from the mini-sewer to the house.

J. Sladky reminded the Committee that he feels the dip in the pipe is no fault of the property owner that this occurred under inspection of City employees and it is in the city right-of-way.

J. Brey asked how many sewer failures there are in a year. R. Junk said there are only 2-3 failures in a year. M. Huck explained that a lot of the calls we receive are pertaining to lateral problems. R. Junk repeated that in the State Sewer Standards, the property owner is responsible from the wye to the house.

V. Mellon explained that the City has been flushing, jetting, root cutting, televising and sliplining to keep the mains in good condition and we are spending Capital Improvement funds in maintaining them. However, the personal laterals are not maintained by the City and doing that would open a huge budget shortfall in the annual CIP plan.

R. Junk said that there is a Resolution that states if it is the failure of the lateral out in the street, the City will be responsible for any restoration work. The property owner is responsible to pay for the pipe.

D. Soeldner asked if we could take a look at the State Statute for the next meeting as well as MPU's watermain policy. Engineering will bring back to the next meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding City/County maintenance responsibilities and N. 8th Street reconstruction

D. Soeldner wanted to know how common it is for the City to maintain County roads.

V. Mellon reviewed via map all of the City streets that are under County jurisdiction and who is responsible for maintaining and plowing these streets. G. Kennedy said the County tries to rebuild the streets and prefers turning over jurisdiction to the City.

The County will budget next year to reconstruct N. 8th Street and would re-bid from the plans prepared by the City. G. Kennedy said the County will only reconstruct if the City takes over jurisdiction of the road. The County shall be responsible for 30' of the cost. The City will be responsible for 12 feet of the total cost and will assess the abutting property owners for 6 feet on each side of the road.

V. Mellon explained that Jim Maples from Vinton said they will not charge the City to get out of the Contract. However, it is our recommendation to continue to award the portion of the contract to Vinton that would install the storm sewer this year to allow settling for one year. The Committee agreed with moving forward with this scenario.

Discussion and possible action regarding mid summer brush pickup

V. Mellon explained that she would rather have the City crews perform street patching work at this time. With the layoffs, the crews should continue to concentrate on this instead of the mid-summer brush pickup.

We will need to advertise that this will not take place this summer, the same way we advertise when there is a pickup.

J. Brey discussed the State Budget and is hopeful the Budget Repair Bill will be in effect by the end of the month.

V. Mellon reiterated that there is no cost savings for not doing the brush pickup, since the employees will be doing other things (concrete/asphalt pavement patching). However, these patches are charged to the utility companies so it actually generates revenue.

J. Brey made a motion to eliminate the 2011 mid summer brush pickup. A. Schema seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

Discussion and possible action regarding privatization of lawn cutting

J. Sladky explained that the Human Resource Dept and Attorney Susan Love recommended not hiring out for lawn cutting and allowing employees overtime work.

The City currently brings in \$7,000 in Revenue for the lawn cutting of privates.

V. Mellon explained that it has traditionally been our procedure to have 1-2 skilled workers paired up with 4 seasonals to get the cutting done. This is still down from what we used to cut in the past. At one time, DPW hired 14 seasonals.

Overtime will be assigned by seniority from a sign up list posted by Randy Junk.

J. Sladky made a motion to offer overtime to clean-up private residences to start now and revisit in 2 weeks (voluntarily). A. Olson seconded the motion.

M. Huck informed the Committee that the rates charged to the residents can be adjusted to include overtime and administration.

J. Sladky said the residents deserve this, as he has received numerous calls on the foreclosed properties that are not getting cut.

J. Brey called a Question.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Discussion and possible action on cutting and trimming of city owned medians

R. Junk said that all grass medians are cut by the Parks Dept. The seasonal employees started this week. Val informed the Committee that Kevin Glaeser has changed the procedures so that now all trimming is performed by the same crew immediately after cutting.

Discussion and possible action regarding the street light in the intersection of Hwy 151 and Alverno Road

V. Mellon explained to the Committee that another light on Hwy 151 was in question. This light is used to light the intersection of Hwy 151 and Alverno Road. She feels the City should keep paying for the light.

The cost for the light is \$9.12/light/month according to M. Huck.

The Committee was ok with the City paying for this light.

Communication (10-064) from SMI requesting that Streets and Sanitation Committee take action on various issues relating to storm water pond maintenance costs

Mike Check said he will discuss at the next meeting with Attorney.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Valerie Mellon, P.E.
Director of Public Works
and City Engineer