

Minutes for Streets & Sewers

July 17, 2018

Members present: Mr. Schaber, Mr. Huddle, Mr. Daniels. With a quorum present, Mr. Schaber called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

Mr. Huddle moved to approve the minutes of February 20, 2018 and April 17, 2018; Mr. Daniels 2nd. Roll call: Ayes all, motion carried.

Minutes of 02/20/2018 and 04/17/2018 were approved (3-0).

New Business:

Item 1. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PREPARE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE FARMING STREET SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT 18-1S, IN THE CITY OF MARION, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Engineer Bischoff explained that this is a spec and bid to advertise and enter into a contract for the Farming Street project. City applied for OPWC funds. City received \$500,000 funds last year. \$257,000 in grant. \$225,000 in 0% loan. \$1.8 million is the total cost. \$500,000 from OPWC. Once City opens bids, they will go ahead and enter into contract with lowest and most responsive bidder.

Mr. Daniels asked about option to provide place to dispose of waste. Engineer Bischoff replied that is an option to look at. Technically that disposal project is still not closed out from George Street project. They need to make sure that is finalized before they have another contractor adding material to it. They will not advertise this until the week after the council meeting so that they will have some time to advertise three weeks. They have got a good month before they even sign a contract. Time to review whether that site is closed out from George Street and see if that is an option.

Mr. Schaber asked for clarification. Per Engineer Bischoff, the south end of quarry park had a ravine in it and part of the cliff. The contractor agreed to knock down part of the cliff, level the area out, collect spoils from George Street to fill in that ravine, and level that area out. Before they add another contractor out there, he would like to get sign off and make sure that things are all good with Mike Chaney and the Parks Department with what was done with the fill.

Mr. Daniels made a motion to approve, Mr. Huddle 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes – Mr. Daniels, Mr. Huddle, Mr. Schaber

LEGISLATION GOES TO COUNCIL WITH 3-0 RECOMMENDATION

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Item 2. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PREPARE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE SHARPLESS COURT SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT 18-2S, IN THE CITY OF MARION, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Engineer Bischoff explained that this is for Sharpless Court. They applied for critical infrastructure grant through Regional Planning last fall. It did not make the funding levels. They put this forward as an OPWC project. The project is smaller now at \$335-340,000. They have \$300,000 through OPWC. It is a pretty significant sewer issue with 5" sewer vein and some access issues that they rolled that into an OPWC project.

Mr. Daniels made a motion to approve, Mr. Huddle 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes – Mr. Daniels, Mr. Huddle, Mr. Schaber

LEGISLATION GOES TO COUNCIL WITH 3-0 RECOMMENDATION

Item 3. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PREPARE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE 2018 STREET RESURFACING, PROJECT 18-1R, IN THE CITY OF MARION, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Engineer Bischoff explained that this is the annual resurfacing program. Right now, they are looking at \$950,000 resurfacing program on various streets throughout the city. They typically review about 50-60 street segments every spring. They try to figure out where they can tackle with the money that they have. In addition to this, some other things are happening. There are signs out that ODOT is preparing to do a large resurfacing project within the city from the foot of Columbia street overpass, up Blaine Avenue to Church and pick up again on the Boulevard and resurface Mount Vernon out to the corporation line. They will do one block of Vine Street between Church and Center and then resurface Center Street from Vine to the railroad tracks. That is getting ready to kick off in the next week or two. There will be a lot of street resurfacing in addition to City sewer projects. A lot of roadway improvements will be done this year.

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In response to Mr. Blevins (220 Blaine Avenue), Engineer Bischoff explained that there is some curb replacement on Blaine Avenue as well as spot curb repair. Right now, the majority of Blaine Avenue will get replaced. When they did the field review, they could not find good spots to stop. On the Mt. Vernon section, there is a curb replacement again and spot repairs. There are sections out of there that will be repaired. Not every section of curb and gutter or straight curb is going to be replaced on the project. This is ODOT's urban resurfacing program. It is just a mow and fill – mow a couple inches off and put a new surface on. There are some base repairs built into that for worse sections on Center Street where they will dig out a couple of feet and rebuild base before they resurface it.

Mr. Huddle made a motion to approve, Mr. Daniels 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes – Mr. Daniels, Mr. Huddle, Mr. Schaber

LEGISLATION GOES TO COUNCIL WITH 3-0 RECOMMENDATION

OTHER BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Charles Blevins (220 Blaine Avenue) asked whether all traffic lights in the city limits are controlled by the city or are some of them controlled by ODOT. Mr. Bischoff said all lights within the city are controlled by the city. Mr. Blevins has some issues at the intersection of Columbia and South Prospect Street. He believes that this is supposed to be a trip light so when traffic stops on Columbia Street, that the light changes. For the longest time, that has not been working. People wait so long that there are people who are driving through the traffic light assuming that it is stuck. He feels that it needs to be looked at.

Mr. Blevin's other concern is for safety. There are several intersections – he does not know specifics. Engineer Bischoff requested specifics. Mr. Blevins continued that some have count down number next to hand signal. All of those intersections are not consistent. He thinks it would lead people to misjudge when a light is going to change and cause an accident. Some of those intersections when the count-down reaches 0, the light goes from green to yellow and then goes to red. There are other intersections with the same count down configuration but when it goes to 0, it is still another 5-8 seconds before the light goes from green to yellow. He thinks all of those lights should be consistent. He thinks that it is probably an easy programming switch to do. Engineer Bischoff asked for specific locations to look at. Some of them could have another phase. There might be a turn phase where it stops pedestrian traffic because there is another 5-8 second turn arrow which drivers see on a different way. If it is just a 4-way street, it is an easy issue. If there is another phase in the light, that might be why the pedestrians get stopped because there is another phase. If Mr. Blevins finds a couple of those, he is to advise Mr. Bischoff and he will dive in at the controller and see if there are some adjustments that can be made.

Mr. Blevins also stated that he would like some progress on things he has talked with administration about. Bischoff agreed. He is really concerned that for many years all of the basements around him have flooded. He has not had flooding, but it is getting close to him. He wants to get a (check) valve in and he would like to see other people be able to get it too.

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Mr. Daniels commented on an island at Church right before Garden Street. People are not yielding. Most people when they come around the curve think that the individuals who are coming in on Church street are continuing on Church street and somehow yield to them. There is a solid line there but apparently people do not see it. They come right over on drivers as if the other driver is in their lane. Drivers cannot cross lanes over a solid white line. Chief Collins said he stopped a lady right there last week. She almost took front of his car off. She did the same thing just came right over. A few more traffic stops there might make a difference with people realizing that they cannot just shoot over to Church.

Rob Vance (466 N. Prospect Street) talked about concerns at the McDonalds on Main Street. He believes that they need some stop signs (on the private property) to prevent people from pulling out in front of traffic. There are a lot of accidents right there because people just shoot out into traffic. People just fly out of there. He has seen stop signs at other locations. Bischoff said that City can call McDonalds manager. Mayor Schertzer explained that there are limited to what City can do on private property.

Mr. Vance continued and talked about the Family Dollar Store on N. Main Street. The dumpsters are out front, and it looks bad. He believes that the need to be moved to the back to make that area look nicer. A lot of people travel through town and it looks bad. All state routes really need attention and need to be cleaned up going through Marion.

Mayor Schertzer stated that he will talk to the Law Director and look at the codified ordinances to see what options there are to ask them or make them do that. They have traveled the alley behind that Family Dollar many times and there is just lot of trash in that alley. He is not going to say that it is all from the Family Dollar, but it looks like a lot of it could be coming from it. He would like to see them clean out their fence row that is overgrown with weeds volunteer tree growth. The City treads lightly when they go on to private property as he has expressed before. He will talk to the Law Director to see what they can do within the codified ordinance to address some of these issues.

Mr. Vance feels strongly about cleaning up streets leading through Marion. People are traveling those streets.

Mr. Vance continued about the Smith Cardinal property on N. Main street where the weeds are high. Mayor Schertzer agreed, however the City does not have jurisdiction over the Smith Cardinal property. Every state route and county road coming into the City of Marion goes through township. Note that Buckeye Trailer Park has gone through a huge renovation in the past couple of years. We've talked about that a great deal. It is so much better. If people have not been up there, please drive through it. They are still working on it. It looks so much better than it did. He understands and travels that way often. There are glimmers of improvement but there are areas that need to be addressed as well. Fortunately, or unfortunately, most of those are in the township. As expressed to committee earlier this evening, there is an open line of communication with his administration and township trustees. He would be happy to bring some of those issues up with them. Their ability to deal with those things is not necessarily the same way that the City would deal with those things. So, he would have to understand how they would go. They have a zoning inspector.

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They do have zoning, but their zoning is not as extensive as what we have here. We would need to address our zoning or code issues with our zoning and code enforcement officer.

Mr. Vance believes that we that we could all step up a lot better than what we do. Politics do not matter. He wants to clean this place up and take pride in our community. There are all kinds of stuff keeping us from doing it. The churches want to help. Private citizens do not have a problem pushing a mower. There are people who are bored and will do it. He believes that we need to clean up our community a lot better. He is just saying that he is sure that we can only do so much, but we can do a lot more.

Mayor Scherzer took a little exception with some of the things Mr. Vance has said. Mr. Vance does not come to the meetings all that often, so the Mayor shared some activities that have happened. Many times, over his tenure he has reached outward to churches and they have participated in various projects. Many times, civic groups and private individuals have helped. He will agree that we need more people pulling in that direction, but we do that right now in the city. His apprehension often times is that we must follow a due process of the law before he will send a government employee to step on private property. He needs to make sure that he does that. So sometimes that due process of the law takes a little bit longer than any of us would like to. He does not believe that politics have entered that at all. He does not care whether a person is a Democrat or a Republican. In what Mr. Vance is talking about he is going to believe that we all want the same thing in that regard. He thinks that we work very well together in that particular issue that Mr. Vance just brought up. He appreciates anybody and everybody that pulls in the same direction that is doing those things that Mr. Vance has talked about. There are council members will do it and some of them are more experienced or have the luxury of doing things that other council members do not. All council members were involved with the administration on those issues and he believes that they will continue to do so.

Mr. Vance shared an experience from two weeks prior. He lives down on Prospect Street. He keeps his blinds shut and he does not use the front door at all. If anyone comes to the door, they do not answer it because they do not know the people. Anyone they know goes to the back door. He walked out the front door and looked around and all he saw was weeds on the curb. He took pictures of it. He was so distressed that he called up three friends and they mowed an entire city block and weed-eated everything. He knows that the City is doing a great job. They cleaned that all up because he could not take it anymore. Some of those houses had not been mowed all year. We need more of that. He felt that he had no choice. He owed it to community. He had to get out there. He hopes that more people get out there and do that. The City has done a great job. We just need to get out more.

Appreciation was expressed by the Mayor and committee.

Mr. Daniels stated that Family Dollar has been a mess for 20 years. He states that those two dumpsters usually have trash on the ground by them, usually folded up cardboard boxes. He has not been filing complaints every week because it slips his mind. He asked whether there was some system that logged all of their complaints so that council people could know what was out there, what was or was not resolved, and whether two council people were

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addressing the same complaints. He believes that there is not a streamlined way for councilmen to call in various nuisance complaints. After they have called them in, there does not seem that there is a streamlined way for departments and individuals to review that list. There is no way to know if a problem has not been handled to go back for follow up or to pursue a different course of action. If something is not being taken care of, there is no way to have accountability. He thinks that we need a better way of all of us to communicate. Perhaps it could be done via a website. There needs to be a streamlined way to log information and follow it through the process. Maybe technology can achieve that without a person in the middle.

Mr. Schaber stated that there is a 311 app that might be an option. 90% of Americans have a cell phone. If we go to this smart city, someone could take photos of a report and then it populates an excel spread sheet and can be sent to different departments and produce workorders. That is something that we could look at. And then we that would also generate a list back to see who has reported what. We can see if me and you are reporting the same lawns on Bennet street or not. Something like that is a cost.

Auditor Carr addressed the committee. Prefacing her comments, she stated that she was not overly familiar with a system, but there may be some options. We actually have a piece of that software already in place that we have been working with the new grass and weeds guy and trying to get this up and running. We are going to open it up to the community, so you got a grass area in your neighborhood and instead of calling you they could literally tag onto the website and go generate a complaint. Then that would go to the appropriate department. It would go to the grass program since that is the top of everyone's' mind. That would generate a work order and then they would know to follow up. It would create the ability for that department to generate a response to that citizen so that they know that their concern is being addressed. As far as improving the communication about who does what, she does not have the answer to that. We do not have all of the components. That is something that we have been working on trying to roll out together with the administration. Whether it is a pot hole or grass, we are trying to open that portal to make those complaints, generate the workorder, distribute to departments. We would like to get that ready to roll, so that is something that we would not have to invest in additional software. It is a matter of taking the time and being able to roll it out. We continue to work on it with other departments as we have time. They are getting grass up and started this year and that has been a little more difficult. They have an iPad that they are taking out into the field. They could take a picture and that will be on there so that we then have documentation that they go out. We are working through the details, but that is part of the software called "Community Development". This is something that we are working towards. It may not be as quick as everyone would like.

Mr. Vance continued regarding the Family Dollar Store. The truck that comes in there is a front loader. Wherever it goes, it crushes the sidewalks. It is a matter of time before the side walk crushes out. What they have now has been replaced several times over the last few years. The side walk is crushed out and you cannot walk down through there. After rain, it waters up really bad. There are holes in the driveway from the truck – potholes. The walk way is not safe. The front loader needs to go around back. If they were coming in with a rear loader, it would be different. 20 ton of trash on truck already. There is enough

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room to access and the dumpsters were previously at the back of the building. They only moved it to the front in the past 10 years. They moved it to the front because it is more convenient for the trash guy and for the store. But it is not convenient for the customers or citizens walking down the street. People must walk in the yard and walk around.

With no further business to come before this committee, Mr. Schaber adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.

Chairman Schaber

Clerk of Council