

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 23, 2012, 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Chairman Stellato, Vice-Chairman Turner, Aldr. Monken, Aldr. Payleitner, Aldr. Rogina, Aldr. Martin, Aldr. Krieger, Aldr. Bessner,

Members Absent: Aldr. Carrignan, Aldr. Lewis

Others Present: Mayor Donald P. DeWitte, Brian Townsend, City Administrator; Mark Koenen, Director of Public Works; Richard Gallas, Asst. Director of Public Works; James Bernahl, Public Works Engineering Manager; John Lamb, Environmental Services Manager; Peter Suhr, Public Services Manager; Tom Bruhl Electric Services Manager; James Lamkin, Police Chief

- 1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.**
- 2. Roll Call**

K. Dobbs:

Stellato: Present
Monken: Present
Carrignan: Absent
Payleitner: Present
Turner: Present
Rogina: Present
Martin: Present
Krieger: Present
Bessner: Present
Lewis: Absent

3.a. Electric Reliability Report, May 2012

Information only.

3.b. EAB Control Efforts

Information only.

4.a Recommendation to approve contract for sanitary sewer service to resident at 36W171 Indian Mound Road.

John Lamb presented. This item may look familiar; it's the same address of the homeowner from last month that you approved for a water connection; after the last meeting the contractor and homeowner approached me about wanting sanitary sewer service at this address also. This agreement is verbatim of the other agreement with sanitary sewer in place of water.

Staff recommends approval of the agreement with the homeowner for sanitary sewer service at 36W171 Indian Mound Road.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Turner, seconded by Aldr. Monken. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

4.b. Recommendation to extend Lease Agreement with BMO Harris Bank (Parking Lot B).

Mark Koenen presented. This item deals with the BMO Harris Bank parking lot which is adjacent to the property at Illinois Avenue between Riverside Avenue and Second Avenue. There was a first amendment presented in April to extend this lease to the end of July in order to work out some business terms with the bank. Those terms have not been completely worked out and the bank has requested that they provide us with a second amendment that would take us for another six months until the end of January. I would ask the committee to endorse the amendment so we can work out the final business terms, which will lead us to a ten year lease as we have had in the past.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Monken, seconded by Aldr. Krieger. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

4.c. Recommendation to approve request for fence along IL Rt. 25 (Woods of Fox Glen Subdivision).

Mark Koenen presented. This item deals with a request that the Public Works Department received from the Woods of Fox Glen Homeowners Association. It is in

conjunction with the Red Gate Bridge construction. I've got a very brief Power Point Presentation that I thought might help introduce the topic for those who aren't familiar with it. We have residents from the Woods of Fox Glen here with us tonight and some of them will want to share their comments to supplement what I'm presenting to you now.

Power Point presentation by Mark Koenen.

Mr. Masulis: Bob Masulis, 634 Fox Glen Drive. I'm here to speak on behalf of The Woods of Fox Glen Homeowners Association.

I'm directly affected by the safety issues that the removal of trees has brought as part of removal. It's a big concern from my standpoint as there is no buffer now. When the trees existed prior to that, there was a natural buffer, i.e. trees, shrubs, etc. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of that shrubbery and the tree line has now been removed. For the eight years that I've lived here, we've never been able to throw a ball and have it actually roll onto Rt. 25, but we did the first week those were removed. A concern of the homeowners is that without having that natural buffer, we now have a safety condition. At the highest point, we reach anywhere from 15-20 from the back of our backyards to Rt. 25. In addition, by the natural embankment, all that vegetation has been removed at such a drastic slope that normal vegetation doesn't really live. It's a 1 to 1 slope which is about where we are at today. In general, to have regular vegetation there, you'll want a slope of about 4 to 1. We have more problems with the safety because by widening the lanes, we've also increased our slopes. In addition to that, we now have a six foot high vertical retaining wall, so even if someone does go off to the back side of that, they are going to a six foot vertical drop down to Rt. 25.

What we are requesting from the city is to fund safety issues and give us some kind of a fence to prevent any access off our backyards. In addition, we do have some concerns that we did get bids from three different companies to give us different options for fences. The \$48,000 option is a standard fence, which is an 8 foot high, single board fence. That, per both fence companies, is not a recommendation or a valid solution in their opinion, for a couple reasons. For one, single board is not made from great lumber, so this fence is going to be a maintenance problem and it's also going to be a safety issue from the standpoint that even in a year we will have potential cracking and maintenance. On the minor end of it is the appearance. The two pictures that you were shown would be acceptable solutions. They would also solve the safety and maintenance issues because they give our vertical boards a shorter distance. We are going to have straighter boards which will have a nicer appearance. Remembering the fact that this fence will go approximately 980 feet to the front entry of our subdivision this would be a much more acceptable, visual solution.

The cedar fences are being priced out at \$57,000 and \$52,000. The SimTek Fence is a lifetime warranty, graffiti free and it matches the style of the proposed retaining wall that is going to be put in and is priced out at \$76,000. Our major concern is that we would like some help with a solution to this safety issue. We understand the necessity to add the bridge and the left turn lane, but it has had a detrimental effect to our neighborhood, primarily from a safety perspective. There is nothing preventing any of us to walk off the back of our property and go down a very steep slope and now also go to a six foot vertical drop.

Chairman Stellato: Can you talk about long term maintenance and responsibility?

Mr. Masulis: As a group, there are six homeowners along this property line that are affected. Five of us are in favor of the fence, and we've decided we would accept the ongoing maintenance of the fence. I do want to strongly urge you that we understand too, that the SimTek is about 30% more expensive than the proposed fence that we've offered in cedar, but the 30% gives us a lifetime warranty and is also graffiti free.

Our concern about any of the cedar fences, especially the straight picket fences is that we've been told within a year we are going to have splitting, cracking and maintenance on the whole fence. The SimTek fence is a one-time purchase that should last forever. Visually it will be nice too because it's going to match what people are going to see along Rt. 25 with the addition of that turn lane.

Aldr. Payleitner: Mark, you described a retaining wall. I'm confused, where is that going to be?

Mr. Koenen: There will be a slope that is at a 3 to 1 and there is a six foot high retaining wall that will split the difference between the back of the curb and the top of the slope, which is where the property line is.

Aldr. Payleitner: Would that keep balls from going in the street?

Mr. Koenen: The retaining wall would not. It would roll right down. The landscape that is in the field today from the top of the retaining wall to the top of the hill will stay in place and the fence would be placed on the private property side at the top of the slope.

Mr. Masulis: Is there additional landscaping going in there? All of that has been removed. Is it going in as grasses or something that is hardier and thicker?

Mr. Koenen: Anything that has been disturbed will be replaced with a grass mix because we are concerned about erosion in the long term.

Chairman Stellato: You mentioned five out of the six homeowners are interested? How is that going to work?

Mr. Masulis: For the homeowner who is not interested, there is not as much of a safety issue because he is less than 30 inches from grade at that point.

Aldr. Rogina: Mark, this is a budget/safety question. I read in the Executive Summary that the Mayor and city staff met with Mr. Masulis earlier this summer; I read in another spot that this is a budgeted item and at the top of the Executive Summary it says included as part of the Red Gate Bridge expense. Help me on this; is the expenditure being proposed coming out of the Red Gate Bridge budget?

Mr. Koenen: The fence was not contemplated when the budget for the Red Gate Bridge project was prepared. Having said that, we have a contingency for unexpected construction related issues as we process this project. If we were to move ahead with any kind of fence here, that money would come from the contingency.

Aldr. Rogina: That could also apply to other safety issues that might occur from the completion of the Red Gate Bridge down the line in other areas as well, correct?

Mr. Koenen: We would have to set it aside for that purpose, yes.

Aldr. Rogina: Is there precedent in the city for the Council to expend city funds on private property for a safety issue?

Mr. Koenen: There are two fences I would represent where the city has spent money in conjunction with state funds. One is along Tyler Road. In 1985 when the four lane section of Tyler Road was constructed, there is a stockade fence on the curve that was constructed as a part of the project and there was a cost sharing arrangement for that between the city and the state. In that particular case there was a land acquisition component which is why there was a shared expense. There is also a sidewalk along Tyler Road as well.

The second location is along South 7th Avenue, from South Avenue south, there is retaining wall built at the back of the sidewalk, it's a 5 to 7 foot high stockade fence built on top of the retaining wall because homes back up to the retaining wall and it was clearly a safety issue there.

Chairman Stellato: So the direction you are looking for tonight is if we are okay with spending this money as per the budget of the Red Gate Bridge as part of the funds and what amount?

Mr. Koenen: You had not heard about this before tonight, so the question is if you want to entertain it. If the answer is yes, the next question would be what style fence or how much you would like to commit to the project? If the answer is no, that's a different alternative.

Aldr. Turner: I would say this is a good idea, especially if it's going to roll in with the Red Gate Bridge funds. This is a major project and it has disturbed neighborhoods both on the east and the west side. I definitely want to move forward on this. Regarding the cost, I think in the long run I would rather go to no maintenance vs. having maintenance issues. We are spending a lot of money on how this bridge looks and fits in with the community, I think it's important that the any additions match the bridge so I would go with the SimTek in my opinion.

Mr. Koenen: There is an exception under the SimTek Fence that deals with the clearing for the fence to be constructed and leveling of the path where necessary which is currently not included in that price. We don't have a cost for that element.

Mr. Masulis: We've talked to them about that and they've included that in their cost.

Aldr. Turner: I recommend approval of the request for a SimTek fence along IL Rt. 25 Woods of Fox Glen Subdivision, not to exceed \$76,000.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Turner, seconded by Aldr. Krieger. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

4.d. ComEd Reliability and Maintenance Issues – Information only.

Thomas Bruhl presented. There were four momentary outages; we do have causes for all of them. We had our first sustained outage on June 24 due to a broken pole inside the ComEd substation. Subsequent to that, they've tested all the poles. We do not have details on the July 1 and 2 storm yet. Their team went from storm mode to heat wave mode, so they haven't been able to investigate.

I would like to highlight that our long-time partner named Mark Heckman retired, but ComEd did appoint Mike Staples who is following in the footsteps of his very positive relationship with us.

I have some pictures of a very timely upgrade ComEd did north of the Q Center. We are working with them to bring in a tenth feed which would feed the station we are going to put just south of Red Gate Road and we also track ComEd's maintenance programs; they do a number of different maintenance items on each line and we track that quarterly to

make sure they are doing what they say they are on their lines. As you can see from this picture of the tree on the lines, this would have resulted in an outage of approximately 2100 customers on July 1 in the central part of town. This tree fell directly on the line as you can see, and it did not cause any interruption at all. The term they use is spacer cable; it's insulated conductors bundled together with fiber glass insulation and it will withstand contact from both – it won't flash over and it is also strong enough to hold the tree up.

No further discussion.

4.e. Recommendation to approve a Budget Addition for New Business Job at 1510 E. Main Street (Old Baker's Square).

Thomas Bruhl presented. This project is at 1510 E. Main, which is the old Bakers Square. They are doing a multi-tenant strip mall that was not contemplated, so we are looking for a budget addition to put in the new transformer and cable that will be 100% reimbursed by the developer.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Turner, seconded by Aldr. Rogina. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

4.f. Recommendation to approve Contractual Services for Storm Sewer Catch Basin Cleaning Services.

Peter Suhr presented. City staff solicited vendors to assist with storm sewer catch basin cleaning services. Last fiscal year, the Request for Proposal for these services was issued to five separate contractors. This is the second year of a four year commitment to preventative maintenance of our storm sewer system in the central core of the city.

Last year we focused on the northeast quadrant; this year we will be in the southeast quadrant. United Septic was the most competitive and most qualified for the RFP. They have provided a total base bid of \$60,586 and have agreed to hold their pricing for this year. The contract will not exceed the \$65,000 budget.

If there are no questions, staff recommends approval of the Request for Proposal as shown in your packet.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Monken, seconded by Aldr. Turner. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

4.g. Recommendation to approve a budget addition for Tree Watering and Unexpected Weather Related Work.

Peter Suhr presented. With the consistent hot weather and drought conditions, the Public Works Staff has identified a significant risk to our annual tree planting program. In response, we have engaged a tree planting vendor and have already begun to take initiative to water 1,000 trees that were planted this past spring and last fall. If the conditions continue, we anticipate the need to keep watering the newly planted trees and also an additional 1,500 trees that were planted over the last four years. The total scope of this is about 2,500 trees that are currently in stress because of the weather conditions.

We have encouraged citizen help with watering by issuing multiple press releases, installing door hangers and word of mouth; we have had varying results. I do have some door hangers here if anyone wants to see them.

To compound the situation, the city was hit with a severe windstorm on July 1 which caused considerable damage, mainly to the more mature trees of our city. In response, public services have engaged a tree vendor to help staff cut and remove tree limbs and brush. About 45 trees have been completely removed due to the wind damage that we received on July 1. The clean-up effort is on-going, probably ending sometime next week and will be a substantial cost to the city for that clean up. Tree replacement costs for the trees that were removed will also need to be considered.

I have provided you with a cost breakdown. We started watering trees in May, which increased in June and July. We also had to purchase 375 more Gator Bags to help the process. To date, we've spent about \$22,000 to water the 1,000 trees that have recently been planted. If we need to continue on, we've budgeted \$9,000 for each August, September and October; that is a worst case scenario that anticipates continuing to water the 1,000 and additional trees that are under stress.

Item 8 suggests that a single soaking of about 30 gallons per tree for what we've identified as about 1,500 trees that are in the range of 2-4 years which are showing signs of stress would cost an additional \$20,000, and that is an immediate need. We also have a section of 100+ trees in the Reserves Subdivision that need more specialized attention; these are mainly in the parkway in front of lots that don't have houses on them, so mulching and things like that need to happen before we can water.

Section B is the storm related costs for the tree removal and trimming that we've been doing. Our tree vendor, Skyline, started working with us on July 1 after the wind storm came in. To date, they've billed us \$14,168. As I mentioned earlier, we anticipate their work to continue through mid-week next week and anticipated costs will increase

approximately \$17,000. The total commitment on just those services is \$31,000. As I mentioned, approximately 45 trees fell down during the storm. To replace those trees is approximately \$300 per tree, which total \$13,500. So you can see on the bottom line, we spent about \$40,000 to date on these two events. We anticipate the worst case scenario to be an additional \$85,000, for a total of \$122,000.

Aldr. Krieger: I just wanted to say that at one point during the July 1 storm we had five blocks in our neighborhood that were blocked by trees, and by midnight that night they were all passable. As late as this past week, we had a tree on private property that had been weakened and the branch came down. It affected not only the homeowners' garage roof and a fence, it loosened some electrical wires. The city responded in about 20 minutes and I found their service to be excellent!

Aldr. Payleitner: I see here it is \$9 for each watering, is that correct?

Mr. Suhr: \$9 for each watering was based on the 1,000 newly planted trees. Some of the tree maintenance, especially in the Reserves is more because we have to add mulch and do prep before we water and the soaking for the 1,500 trees that are 2 to 4 years old is more in the range of \$12 per tree because of the volume of water.

Aldr. Payleitner: What if the citizens did this? What would it cost them?

Mr. Gallas: It costs roughly \$2 per 1,000 gallons of water.

Aldr. Payleitner: This would be much cheaper if the citizens did the trees. How do you know if the citizens aren't doing them?

Mr. Suhr: We test every site before we water; they do that with a probe to test the tree for moisture around the roots. If the vendor comes to a tree that has been watered and is okay, they move on to the next tree at no charge. We have some cases where the citizens have watered too much and we have to pull the Gator Bags, so we have both cases.

Aldr. Monken: Is it safe to run a hose from the house to the tree and let it trickle?

Mr. Suhr: Yes, it certainly is.

Aldr. Monken: This is an investment to protect all these trees; I feel this makes total sense.

Aldr. Payleitner: It does, and it's necessary. But how often do we hear citizens say that we are spending money unnecessarily, and here is a chance for them to pitch in and keep the costs down.

Chairman Stellato: Where is the money coming from?

Mr. Suhr: Right now, we are considering this from the general fund reserves.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Monken, seconded by Aldr. Turner. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

5.a. Recommendation to deny the request for a four-way stop at the intersection of 7th Street and State Street – requested updates.

Chief Lamkin presented. Last month we had a discussion regarding the request from a resident for a four way stop sign at 7th and State. We had outlined the warrant study that we did and we did not recommend placement of that because it doesn't meet warrants. There was some discussion about issues such as the neighborhood school kids who are picked up by the bus and possibly some sightline issues. We have made attempts to meet with the resident, I think he is out of town because we haven't been able to connect. However, we have had good conversations with the School District. The projected census of children picked up at that location is two or three. The actual census won't be known until school starts, but the Transportation Director has been affirmative with us that they'll do whatever they need to do to make the situation safer and we will continue to work with them.

I believe at this point, it is best for us to let the school year approach and treat this as a work in progress to see how we can make it the best situation possible. We have looked at some of the other circumstances there. We still do not have traffic crash history that would warrant placement of a four way stop. There has been at least one suggestion of painting the crosswalk at the intersection to make the crosswalk more obvious to drivers as well as pedestrians; there is maintenance required with that, but it is something that Public Works can work into their schedule.

That is our update for tonight; we will continue to follow-up with the resident and will do a site walk in the area to see if we can better address concerns directly with him.

Aldr. Rogina: I've talked with Chief Lamkin and I'm happy with his remarks. I do think crosswalks and possibly a yellow sign indicating pedestrians would be a good idea in that area.

Chief Lamkin: We will take incremental steps, perhaps striping it and see what the effect is before putting the yellow sign in the middle of street, largely because that

creates a snow plowing issue. That's why we view this as a work in progress to see what we can do best.

Aldr. Rogina: I still maintain a sidewalk is necessary in that area.

Aldr. Payleitner: Was Mr. Petinka's only concern with school children?

Aldr. Rogina: He was concerned about traffic on 7th, the addition of more traffic in the future and the fact that 7th and State is where the kids are currently picked up by a bus.

No further discussion.

5.b. Recommendation to approve Street and Parking Lot Closures for the 2012 Scarecrow Festival.

Chief Lamkin presented. We've outlined the request for this year, which is similar to past years. I noted one of the requests was to close Cedar between Second and 4th. We did not want to isolate any businesses along the area and we worked with Johnson's to ensure they'll have access to their driveway on Cedar coming off 4th. It is also our understanding that the VFW has entered into an agreement with the event sponsors to use their parking lot for the event, so they will not need access to their parking lot.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Krieger, seconded by Aldr. Monken. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

5.c. Recommendation to approve IDOT Resolutions for the closure of 2nd Street (Route 31) at Illinois Street for two high school Homecoming parades.

Chief Lamkin presented. This is a recommendation for two IDOT Resolutions, one for each of the Homecoming Parades. We have the parades scheduled to take place on Illinois. These resolutions are for the crossing that has to occur at IL Rt. 31. This is the same location as last year and it seemed to work well for us and the schools.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Monken, seconded by Aldr. Turner. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

5.d. Recommendation to approve Street Closing for Baker Memorial Annual Picnic.

Chief Lamkin presented. This is for the Baker Memorial Annual Picnic; they are asking to use the street like they do for the farmers market. The church has represented if we have the barricades there, they can pull them onto the street.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Krieger, seconded by Aldr. Rogina. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

6.a. Recommend that the City Council approve a Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute the Agreement for Services and License Agreement By and Between the City of St. Charles and Downtown St. Charles Partnership.

Brian Townsend presented. This is the final approval of the funding that has previously been authorized by the City Council for the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. The specific recommendation before you is to approve a resolution to authorize me to execute two agreements with the Downtown Partnership. The first is the agreement for services, which specifies what things they will do in exchange for the funding that has been authorized. The second is a license agreement that will allow the organization to move into city hall and occupy office space here in the building. The terms of both agreements are consistent with what we've talked about previously, so I will keep my remarks brief and ask if the committee has any questions about the documents that have been presented.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Monken, seconded by Aldr. Turner. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

WALK ON ITEM

Recommendation to Waive the Bid Procedure and approve a Resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with James McHugh Construction Co. for installation of electric duct in coordination with water main work on IL Rt. 25.

Thomas Bruhl presented. We are putting conduit under the Red Gate Bridge in order to allow us to link IL Rt. 31 to IL Rt. 25 and finally give some redundancy to people on the north side of town. We had to get from Red Gate Bridge to where the main line ends on IL Rt. 25. I originally planned on doing that via directional boring, which would have been a cost of \$82,000. When I started engineering that and started working with

McHugh, it became very difficult to find a corridor to put that pipe, so they offered to work with me to put it in the trench next to the water that they are already opening. They did a budget estimate that came to \$39,000 which is about half of the directional boring cost and I included \$5,000 for contingencies.

Staff recommends waiving the bid process since we are working with McHugh, who is already digging the ditch and authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$39,000.

No further discussion.

Motioned by Aldr. Turner, seconded by Aldr. Bessner. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

7. Additional Business

None.

8. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition.

K. Dobbs:

Stellato: Yes

Monken: Yes

Carrignan: Absent

Payleitner: Yes

Turner: Yes

Rogina: Yes

Martin: Yes

Krieger: Yes

Bessner: Yes

Lewis: Absent

Motion by Aldr. Turner, seconded by Aldr. Rogina. No additional discussion. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:25.

Motion by Aldr. Rogina, seconded by Aldr. Monken. No additional discussion. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Government Services Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Aldr. Monken, seconded by Aldr. Turner. No additional discussion. Approved unanimously by voice vote. **Motion carried.**