

## MINUTES

### WORKING SESSION CITY COUNCIL 401 WEST WASHINGTON STREET EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS

November 5, 2019

Mayor John P. Kahl called the Working Session of the City Council of East Peoria, Illinois to order at 5:00 P.M. with the meeting having been properly noticed.

Upon the roll being called the following answered present: Mayor John P. Kahl, Commissioners Daniel S. Decker, Mark E. Hill, Seth D. Mingus, and Michael L. Sutherland.

Absent: None.

Mayor Kahl explained that the City Council is meeting for a Working Session and that no formal business will be conducted by the City Council at the meeting. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to have a Working Session regarding Complete Utility and Road Reconstruction Process. He turned the discussion over to PW Director Dennis Barron. Director Barron explained that he would be going through the process of complete utility and road reconstruction. In creating the process, he discussed the project with the three departments in public works, including water, sewer, and streets. In choosing a street for complete utility and road reconstruction, parties reviewed where there were smaller pipes that could use a larger capacity pipes, looking at where streets are to be redone, among other factors. He explained that they decided on three streets; Vonachen Court, Baker Street (including part of Oakwood that is next to Baker Street), and Marion Street. He explained that they came up with approximate prices and received word that Vonachen Court was going to be part of an Ameren gas replacement project, the street has smaller diameter clay pipe and parts of the street are curb and gutter and other parts that are ditches. Director Barron commented on costs of the Vonachen Court complete utility and street reconstruction project that include several assumptions to help offset costs. By using sewer and water funding to replace a portion of the pavement as if there was utility replacement, the water/sewer would need to pay for those costs for the portion of the replacement of the street paving that would need to be done if there was a utility replacement. He commented and noted on a map of Vonachen Court that included replacing manholes, sewer and water lines. Director Barron explained that they considered replacing ditches with curb and gutter and adding sidewalks. However, it was determined that it may not be an ideal time to replace with curb and gutter and sidewalks due to the costs. The probable costs included costs as if the water and sewer line replacement would be done by contractors instead of employees. However, if the water line work is done in-house, then the costs would go down. The engineering needs to be completed this fiscal year in order to be constructed in the next fiscal year of 2020-2021. The engineering work is the first piece in order to move forward and be shovel ready. There are two projects in case there are available funds in the next fiscal year in order to proceed with both projects. There would then be additional streets each year to continue with the process. Director Barron discussed the engineering costs and the breakdown of the payments for Vonachen Court being split between the water, sewer and street funds. He went through the construction costs and the breakdown between those three funds with the total cost being \$1,094,540 with the water portion being contracted out along with a 25% contingency of \$273,635. He went through the approximate size and services for water and sewer infrastructure.

Director Barron explained the Marion Street reconstruction cost and explained that only engineering costs would come this fiscal year with the construction costs estimated to be in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Water and Sewer are enterprise funds and there is funding. The piece that is the hurdle is the general fund that is the street department costs. Street should be covered by the MFT increase that is anticipated. The additional dollars needed would be diverted into this project.

Director of Finance, Jeff Becker, explained that going into any of this reconstruction would depend upon what it budgeted for streets by the council in the future.

Mayor Kahl opened up the discussion to Commissioners Decker and Sutherland.

Commissioner Decker explained that he is trying to spend more money on streets and at times people tell him that the streets are not that bad. He wants to make as big of an impact as the City can on streets. He cannot say how the city streets compare to other municipalities' streets. He explained the different street maintenance processes that the city uses including the heat scarification process that helps the city's dollars go farther. Commissioner Decker likes the concept of fixing all the utilities under the streets; however, his only concerns are the cost and that the city will not get to all the needs of the street department. He does not want to waste money in paying for band aids and then having to do more band aid repairs in the future on the same streets. His inquiry is how will the funding go. He would like the community to weigh in on this option. Commissioner Decker commented on costs of the project and explained that the three proposed streets are not streets that are in the most disrepair. However, the streets were crosschecked with street condition, water condition, and sewer condition. Commissioner Decker does have skepticism and wants to do what is in the best interest of the city. He inquired how far \$351,000 would go into street maintenance without the complete process. Director Barron explained that the heat scarification, GSB application was approximately \$12 per square yard; therefore, figuring a 24 foot wide street would cover almost 11,000 linear square feet. He explained that it would cover approximately nine times the length of street than Vonachen Court and approximately eight times what the Marion Street complete reconstruction process would cover.

Commissioner Sutherland inquired about the water being contracted out versus the water installation being done in house. Arnold Road was discussed, where sanitary sewer was infiltrated with storm sewer sending manhole covers airborne. Commissioner Sutherland commented on residents pumping their sump pumps into the sanitary sewers. He feels the city is wasting money by fixing streets without fixing the infrastructure underneath. He feels that the city can continue to kick the can down the road, but he feels that we are at the end of the road. He explained the homeowners lateral and the city's water main and responsibilities of each. He commented on areas in the city which the city does not supply water and needing to give notice to the water company or district in those areas. He commented on what the village of Morton does with their road reconstruction. He explained that he wants inspections done to ensure that sump pumps are not tied into the sanitary sewer. He feels that the amount estimated will be lower because there are not curb and gutter included in all of the streets. He feels that the city water department is topnotch and can complete the water portion of the project. Ameren will follow the city around and try to replace their lines at the same time and it could be a possibility for Ameren to take down utility poles and bury lines.

Commissioner Hill explained that he is open to this approach. His concerns are the costs and what can the city do with the funds. He would like to put \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000 toward streets. His other concern is counting on the funding before we know the amount. Commissioner Hill feels that, in the end, the street will be in very good shape for many years. He is wondering if the city can come up with the money to proceed with this project.

Commissioner Sutherland explained that he wants to see the city hire its own engineer. He feels that the city can do better with infrastructure, and he wants to get bids out there at an early time so that there can be better costs and contractors are available.

Commissioner Mingus is concerned about not being able to increase the street maintenance budget to fix more streets. He understands the process and it makes sense. He is concerned with the costs and concerns that this may set the city back on the overall maintenance to city streets. He commented on the costs of larger streets that are more heavily traveled. He would like to get the public's opinion on the project.

Mayor Kahl inquired about the PPUATS project at Riverside Drive and Camp Street. Director Barron explained that the project is to begin in the next fiscal year with those funds to be due. However, sometimes it takes time into future fiscal years before the final bills come in. Mayor Kahl likes the concept of replacing the road and utilities; however, from a financial standpoint he is not quite there. He is concerned with how the funds are allocated and falling further behind on street maintenance in order to pay for these projects. He is leery about spending money on this when there will be additional costs for other projects. There is another project outside of the River Road intersection that will need funds allocated toward.

Mayor Kahl asked for any comments from the audience.

Don Norbits came up to the podium to ask a few questions. He inquired as to the life of the street utilities once they are laid down. The average life of clay pipe is 50-60 years and the current plastic is estimated to be 100 plus years. He asked about the life of a street. Ric Semonski, Supervisor of Streets, explained that a new construction is 15-20 years on pavement surface and that is not curbs and gutters. Mr. Norbits asked what the projected maintenance? Supervisor Semonski explained that he is unsure; however, that general maintenance is sealcoating. Mr. Norbits is wondering whether the city can recoup the dollars and the return on investment of the project. Semonski explained that those numbers are difficult to determine because of the age of the systems. Commissioner Sutherland explained that the city should not take money away from street repairs. There needs to be new money used for these projects. He commented on bonds expiring in the next seven to eight years and using those extra monies for these projects. He feels that it is a good project. There are some streets where there are already plastic pipes and some areas where the utilities do not belong to the city. Therefore, not every street needs to have the city replacing the utility lines underneath.

Mayor Kahl asked for any additional comments from the audience. There was no response.

Motion by Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that we adjourn the meeting.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Hill, Mingus, and Sutherland and Mayor Kahl.

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:56 P.M.

/s/ Morgan R. Cadwalader

Morgan R. Cadwalader, City Clerk