



Minutes - Final

Public Works Committee

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

5:30 PM

Call to Order: Chairperson MacLean, McGuire, O'Connell

Present: 3 - David McGuire, Roger MacLean and Ray O'Connell

Public Works Budget Preview

From Council's Rules: Committee Review: In August and September of each year, the Standing committees shall conduct a public meeting where the administration shall review their budget priorities, goals and objectives, successes and failures, capital projects and any personnel or organizational changes being considered for the ensuing fiscal year.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that this is just a part of what they do. They have seven departments and 133 full-time employees and 13 part-time employees. He gave an overview of department. He discussed building maintenance accomplishments completing 618 work orders. The highest profile this year was the AC. We did have issues with the AC at City Hall. The boiler will be replaced this October. Office of Compliance accomplishments were MS 4 Permit Rules. Meeting with EPA all the time. Capital Projects coming after that are under the Lease Concession. Pre-Lease Valve replacement project. We have a 811 utility group that they meet quarterly to go over different issues. Homeland Security came up with some systems and we have \$225,000 to spend on the security upgrades. Automatic Meter Reading is a ongoing project. Administrative Order and the Bond for future upgrades. Water main replacement to complete at least two miles per year. LCA did 4.4 miles this year. It is 90 percent complete. Motor Control Center project was completed in 2016. Wastewater Digester Cover Replacement was a rehabilitation of one of the digesters. Engineering, Capital improvement projects. They try to enhance with state and federal funding. Arts District on 6th from Hamilton and Linden came in over bid and sent out again. Livingston Watershed on Albright and 21st Street starting to plant the plants and the Curb and Sidewalk program, the City drainage improvements. He discussed the pedestrian street light design. Turner will be the first street they will be working on. They are aggressively working with the Waterfront Development. Gordon Street Bridge is in design. It is one of the last underrated bridges that needs work. Construction starting in spring 2018. Sacred heart Streetscape and lighting beautification can safety put out for bid and RFP, pricing came out more than expected. It is a project that is needed. Hamilton Street Improvements between 10th and 15th completed handicapped ramps. We are looking at spring and/or summer. Chew

Street traffic calming is also a project that was put out and rewarded. Tilghman Street Bridge there is not too much involvement. There will be a sidewalk area for people to continue to walk across. They are working in conjunction with the Waterfront to make sure it blends. Mack Boulevard Traffic calming was put out and awarded and completed next spring or early summer. Eighth Street Bridge is on schedule with a November opening.

Ms. Jennifer McKenna stated that the light photo is from 19th Street, but is the same design.

Ms. Ann Saurman stated that for the Solid Waste Fund biggest accomplishment was securing the trash contract with Waste Management and winning the court case with Mascaro. There is single stream recycling and yard waste collection. They introduce their new mascot, Single Stream Scotty. We realized a 24 percent increase by going single stream. Thirty-four percent average increase. The collection cost along by going single stream savings is \$578,000. Recyclables that we collected in the three months with our tipping fee of \$54.28. By recycling was saved \$108,666. They will be announcing the Recycle bank which we will be announcing in November. Driving license ID swiping program to verify Allentown Residents. She discussed animal control complaints and graffiti are down from last year. We have dog license sales and they are Lehigh County dog licenses. DEP performance grants, the more recycle, the more money we get from DEP.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that the Street Department accomplishments is about 7 1/2 miles of paving on city streets and alleys. That is our goal. The curbing and sidewalk contractors are behind schedule. We actually enhanced our maintenance program with the Seal Machine. Last winter, we basically had the one storm and had to remove 11,205 cubic yards of snow. The municipal garage is still under Sentara and Integrated Services. Currently, we have 573 units. They have 16 accomplishments. They have their own department and take care of their storm lines. Traffic Planning and Control, safe routes to school for middle schools. They did 40 full intersection and probably can to 120. The traffic signal response system funding of \$2 million grant. The LED light conversion program construction schedule is late 2016 - 2017. Traffic signal upgrades at Church and Emmaus will be completed by 2017. Jefferson Street Pedestrian flashes, we are requesting funding. American Parkway lighting program we requested \$1.4 million and unfortunately we only received \$232,000. We will be putting new lighting from Union to Gordon. Hopefully, we will get it done in 2017.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated before we open it for questions he wanted to

introduce the crew.

The Public Works staff stood and introduced themselves.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked his colleagues if they had any questions.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated great report. You have a very good department. You brought us up to date on Andrew Street, behind Stooges. The Chew Street Project will be a big project. He asked about the flashing lights at 17th and Chew. He asked about New England Avenue. He asked if the city is having trouble having people to bid. He asked why is Mark an acting Engineer. He asked Ann about Act 901. He asked about the dumping in Allentown.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that it will be milled and the fabric helps selective cracking coming from the joints of the concrete. This is the first time PennDot will be doing it from the roadway. He stated New England Avenue was a settlement and it was taken care of. We need to get that project back on, funded and completed. Yes, he stated that it is a good thing everybody is working, but it is a bad thing everybody is working. It is a little difficult. He stated that I am interim, he is acting Engineer.

Mr. Nelson Varughese stated that they are going to decide.

Ms. Ann Saurman stated that it is Act 902 and the balancing of the state budget last year was difficult and they raided several funds and took from several funds. We look for evidence to try to determine where it came from. We purchased four set of surveillance cameras and move around to several hot spots.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if the cameras are working and you are able to catch. She spent several weeks to Public Works. She was so amazed by the work that they do, the amount of work they have and how good you are at your job. Thank you for your service.

Ms. Ann Saurman stated that some and it also acts as a deterrent. Tom Harper works diligently with the cameras. We just got them in a month ago.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that that one of the photos you showed was on S. 12th and S. Jefferson Street. Is that proposed to be put in, scheduled or funded. He asked about Club Avenue and Hanover Avenue and additional striping.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that the actual flasher was put up at Liberator and Jefferson. We have some striping we have funded for. The rest of it is

not funded. Some of the signage is up already. The main thing was working with Bethlehem and getting an agreement.

Mr. Nelson Varughese stated that some signs are already up and the ordered small signs and waiting for it to come.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked any questions from the public.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker asked about the slide that shows 413 miles and he sees other things over the years that showed 426 miles. He stated that a number of gold funded or bonded, are they appropriated into this Bond. Is this the \$6 million bond. He asked about the storm lines. What percentage of the city did you complete with that footage? He asked if New England Avenue will cost the city another \$1 million. We have to put on the TIP the transportation program with the state. He asked about future projects that will cost more than \$50,000. He asked about Public Works department and location.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that some of the miles are not Liquid Fuels fundable. Some of the roads due to the size, they don't count, not for funding. He asked Mr. Hunsicker to give the exact ones that you are talking about. There are different bonds and loans. At this point, I believe we have the system completed as it is mapped. There were actual areas by Wegmans and other areas that were not mapped. We are trying to work on a Five Year Program. It is tough to say, it could be a \$1 million or \$ 2 million. The city will be applying for a Green Light Go Grant for some upgrades for Lehigh Street. There are a lot of projects going on. He stated that Public Works would like to put them in a brick building instead of an old trailer.

Ms. Jennifer McKenna stated that it is from the 2011 Bond issue. Some of them were 2012 and some were from 2015. That is General Obligation in 2011 and another one in 2012 and 2015.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked any other questions from the public.

Mr. George Shaller, 622 Park Street, stated that the garbage dumping is a pet-peeve of his. He takes pictures of them. Are these people being fined.

Ms. Ann Saurman stated that what she would like to do is take down your name and phone number.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that if you give her your information. If you want to find out, just say on this date I sent this picture in and she will give you the results of it.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that his only question was what he sent in to you, were those people fined.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if it is done by citation or Sweep.

Ms. Ann Saurman stated illegal dumping will go to citation.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked anybody else for Courtesy of the Floor.

Adjourned: 6:30 PM