



Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, May 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Robert Hudson at 6:30 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Present: Aldermen Terri Motley, Robert Hudson, Harold Deckerd, Don Rodgers & Landon Magley. Also Present: City Administrator Heather Russell, Public Works Director Mike Forsee, Mayor Chris Cox, Police Chief Harlan Hatton, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Water Foreman Matt Rusch, Electric Foreman Matt Fadler, and Street Foreman Phil Hoffman.

Citizens Present: Blake Wilburs, Gary Davis, Chris Fischer & James Smith

Absent: David Wilkins

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

All in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Minutes:

There were no comments from citizens.

5. ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Electric Foreman Matt Fadler reported that the crew has set a couple new poles in town, but the weather has been a problem. If the weather clears, they are planning to set a lot of poles around the city. They have used the newly purchased stump grinder and it works very well. The crew is able to cut the trees down, grind them and straw them in one stop. Matt has been talking with residents on Booth street to prepare for the upcoming sidewalk improvement.

There are several trees that will be cut down in order to repair and pour new sidewalk.

b. Generation/Purchase

c. Distribution

d. MPUA Mutual Aid

Minutes:

Electric Foreman Matt Fadler and Public Works Director Mike Forsee announced that they have been talking with MPUA about a mutual aid contract that will allow other cities and communities to help each other with projects that may arise. This would be beneficial when there are projects that we may not have the tools needed to complete the job. A different community may have the tools and be able to send an experienced employee to help complete the task. We have the contract to commit to participating in the program, and a bill will be added to the agenda for next week's Board of Aldermen meeting regarding our participation.

e. Other

6. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Street Foreman Phil Hoffman reported that the annual spring clean up was a little lighter than normal, but it went very well. His crew has been busy completing the sidewalk on Railroad street and they have been working on drainage after the rain.

b. Streets

c. Sanitation

d. Storm Water - South Jefferson Gano Pipe Bids

Minutes:

Street Forman Phil Hoffman has received 3 bids for the plastic pipe that will be used for the South Jefferson to Gano portion of the project. None of the companies that submitted bids have all of the pipe needed to finish the project in inventory. The bid prices are good for 30 days, so a decision should be made at next Monday's Board of Aldermen meeting. All of the pipe was included in the budget this year and so far the expense is coming in under the budgeted amount.

e. Storm Water - Pipe Bid for in front of High School

Minutes:

Street Foreman Phil Hoffman reported that there is only one bid for the concrete pipe needed for the portion of the project in front of the High School. He contacted several companies, but they get their pipe from Fred Weber which is who he had received the bid from. We will be ordering 900 foot of concrete pipe with 5 inlet boxes and it is 8 weeks out.

f. Other

7. WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Water Foreman Matt Rusch reported that they are still having trouble with the Slaker. Public Works Director Mike Forsee said that he and City Administrator Heather Russell drafted a letter to the company to inform them that we need 6 months of continuous problem free work in order for us to agree to keep the machine. Matt said that the longest it is has gone without a break down is one month. A lime analysis was requested and the test came back that the lime is fine. Mike said that Nick Martin, the project supervisor, wants to come check the machine every 2 weeks, but Mike feels that he would make little repairs to keep it going, so he is against it. Alderman Rogers asked if the machine is still under warranty, but Mike said the warranty has not been activated yet because the machine has not run consistently enough to start the warranty. Matt said that if we do ask for a replacement, there could be an issue getting a new one.

b. Water

c. Sewer

d. Monthly Water & Wastewater Project Update

Minutes:

Water Foreman Matt Rusch reported that the pumps for the waste water project will not arrive in time to be used this summer, so they are exploring using portable pumps to run the pivots. They will talk to the farmers about sharing the cost.

Engineer Gary Davis gave an update for Bartlett & West. He said that there are 2 main problems with finishing the wastewater project, supply chain & budget. They are not able to get the pumps and control panels needed to finish the project. They are also out of money on the wastewater side of the project. There is still money available on the drinking water portion of the project, but DNR will not let them transfer those funds to the wastewater. He announced that there are 4 basins that were dug for the wastewater project and 3 of them are basically done, but the last one has developed a wet spot. Alderman Magley said that they dug a hole in the wet area and it had water in it within 30 minutes. Gary said that they have asked Terracon, a soil consultation company, to take samples to see if there is a solution for this problem. Terracon has taken soil probes throughout the project and had assured us that the site was suitable for the basin, but now they seem more uncertain about the location. Gary asked if the city would dig the holes to make the testing process go faster.

Alderman Magley was concerned about the size of the basin since we have already moved the berm once based on their recommendation. Gary proposed 5 options for the project. The first was to abandon the lower basin, sow it back in grass and let it go, but this would add cost due to changing the suction hose and

the pump house. The second option is to finish it and do a compaction test, which it will pass and hope that everything will hold, but the berm could fail at a later date. The third option is to have Terracon tell us where it would be safe to move the berm out of the problem area and finish the project at a smaller size. The fourth option is to dig trenches on the inside and outside of the basin, fill the inside with bentonite and the outside with gravel to make a French drain, but he is not sure how deep the trenches would have to be and the cost of bentonite is high. The last option is to keep digging out the wet spot until they get under it and have a deeper basin than planned. Alderman Magley and Rodgers are concerned about the berm blowing out at the current location and said that water coming up out of the ground was noted on the first report done by Terracon. They asked Gary which option he would recommend and he said that he would go with option three of moving the berm to solid ground. Public Works Director Mike Forsee does not like that option because the basin would be one quarter the size it was originally supposed to be. Gary reminded Mike that the upper basin would hold the capacity needed for the project, the lower basin was added because funds were available for it. Gary passed out a no cost change order for the project with would extend the completion date out 75 days, but with no additional cost to the city. This extension would allow Bartlett & West to complete the upper basin, not the lower. Chris Fischer of Fischer Grading said they could have the work done on the upper basin in 2 weeks, but it will take time for DNR to run the tests needed to complete it. Chris also said he could be done with the lower basin in 2 days, but he now has to wait on the issue with the wet spot. Alderman Magley asked if wastewater levels were a problem yet, but Mike said they were pushing all the water to Benoit's and they have the capacity to hold it for now. Gary recommended finishing the floor of the lower basin since it is almost done because the ground could get too hard if we wait on the reports from Terracon to finish. Mike and the Board agreed. Alderman Hudson asked for a motion to approve the change order, but Alderman Magley expressed concerns about getting a timeline from Fischer Grading that we had asked for months ago. Chris said that he does not remember that request, but several aldermen and Mayor Cox believe that he has not put our project as a priority and it shows in the lack of results. Chris said that he would get us a rough schedule and is optimistic about completion now that the weather has improved. Alderman Deckerd moved to approve the change order, Alderman Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0

e. Other

8. PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR

a. Monthly Report

Minutes:

Public Works Director Mike Forsee said that he has talked to several farmers about the Douglas farm and bids are due in the office on Friday, May 13th. He has sent out for asphalt bids and they are due on Monday, May 16. He also reported that Ameren has been checking to see if there are gas lines in the sewer system and it has been an asset for the City because they have located several issues that need to be fixed or addressed.

b. Other**9. AS MAY ARISE****10. ADJOURN****Minutes:**

Alderman Don Rodgers moved to adjourn the meeting and Alderman Terri Motley seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Contact: Heather Russell, City Administrator (heather@centraliamo.org) (573) 682-2139 | Minutes published on 05/13/2022, adopted on 05/16/2022