

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

May 4, 2017

5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

City Councilors Eric Niemann and Doug Edmonds and Mayor Rocky Sloan
Staff: Public Works Director Kevin Fear, Operations Supervisor Garry Black, and City Recorder Ruth Post.

MINUTES:

MOTION: Mayor Sloan moved, Councilor Edmonds second, to approve the minutes of March 2, 2017, as presented. Motion APPROVED 3-0.

TREE BOARD BUSINESS:

Informational briefing on hazardous tree removal at 144 N 7th Street –Mr. Black provided a summary of the tree that is on City property. An arborist surveyed the tree and declared it was dead. He accepted bids for removal and low bidder was Dunn Tree Service for \$3,250, including stump grinding. There was discussion about whether there was any value in the tree that would make it useful to donate to a local charity. Mr. Black will follow up on that. He stated the second closest bidder was Buena Vista at over \$4,000.

MOTION: Councilor Edmonds moved, Councilor Niemann second, that the city-owned tree at 144 N 7th Street be removed by Dunn Tree Service for \$3,250. Motion APPROVED 3-0.

Informational briefing on Arbor Day Celebration - Mr. Black reported that over 140 kids attended the tree planting activities at Public Works on April 27. He stated that they have already received thank you notes from the classes. He stated that on April 28, free trees were handed out at True Value along with tree care brochures.

Other Business – None.

Tree Board Business closed at 5:09 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS BUSINESS:

Jeff Cohen, President of Neabeack Hill Homeowners Association, to discuss possible donation of greenway area between Reservoir Park and Neabeack Hill – Mr. Cohen explained that the City's Park Master Plan refers to the Neabeack Hill trail as a Priority 2 project and applies to Tract "B" in the subdivision to bring an access down to the bike path. He stated that the proposal is to donate Tracts "A" and "B" to the City to use as it sees fit. There was discussion about the steepness of Tract "B" and the north end of Tract "A". There was discussion about whether it was ever documented that Schneider Homes intended for Tract "A" to be donated to the City.

Chair Niemann suggested doing more fact-finding and a topographical survey. Mayor Sloan stated consideration should be given for the slide liability on the north end of Tract "A" if a trail is put in. Mr. Cohen stated that the Park Advisory Board had voted to move forward with a recommendation for the City to acquire the property. Councilor Edmonds reviewed the other available walking trails in that area and concerns about safety of walkers on the steep slopes of the tracts. There was discussion about Lots 82 and 86 owned by Jason Leonard and his efforts

to sell those to the City. Mayor Sloan stated his liability concerns with the City acquiring those lots.

Mayor Sloan questioned if the entire HOA had been notified of the proposal. Mr. Cohen stated this conversation was a testing the waters to see if the City has interest. Mr. Fear described costs associated with mowing that area to keep tall grass down and prevent fire danger. He stated concerns about limited budget to perform that work. Councilor Edmonds suggested Mr. Cohen take the conversation back to the HOA with some of the City's concerns and consider alternative proposals. There was discussion about Public Works having to contract out potential mowing due to the steepness and lack of existing equipment to perform that work.

There was additional discussion about the Tract "B" project being in the Park Master Plan. Chair Niemann recommended tabling the topic until more information is reviewed, including coordination with the Park Advisory Board and the HOA. Councilor Edmonds recommended forwarding minutes of this meeting and the map to the Park Advisory Board and that a topographical map be investigated.

Discussion to forward the draft Wastewater Master Plan to the City Council for preliminary approval – Mr. Fear reviewed the status of the draft master plan and timeline involving DEQ review. He summarized the project list. He described issues with the Timber Estates pump station and the extra staffing required during heavy storms to avoid surcharges.

Councilor Niemann recommended tabling the issue until the Committee has an opportunity to review the document. Ms. Post suggested the Committee could review the document and allow the topic to remain on the City Council's May 8 agenda. The Committee will be prepared to answer questions at the May 8 City Council meeting.

Other Business –

Alum Discharge -- Mr. Fear reviewed the issue two weeks ago at the water treatment plant with a check valve failure that resulted in the possibility of a discharge of alum into the adjacent Marys River Park pond, including operator efforts to keep the pH levels within allowable limits and getting the treatment plant back on-line. He described the citizen reports. He stated that conditions were never out of compliance and the City never violated its discharge permit parameters. He reviewed communications with DEQ regarding the issue. He stated they are currently investigating the pipe that drains into the pond at Marys River Park. There was discussion about the check valves involved. Mr. Fear reviewed the visit this week by DEQ and options, including removing the piping to that natural depression. The Committee requested they be kept updated on any developments. Councilor Edmonds questioned if a new water treatment plant has the same design use of check valves. Mr. Black described differences in new treatment technology.

New Sampling Requirements -- Mr. Fear described new sampling requirements beginning this fall and associated testing expenses. There was discussion about the impact of new requirements.

Hydrant Testing -- There was brief discussion about the hydrant testing being completed this week by Public Works and the need for the Fire Department to complete their flow testing before summer. Mr. Black described the difference in the types of testing Public Works performs versus the Fire Department's testing.

Future Water Treatment Systems and Options -- There was discussion about timelines involved in construction of any new treatment facility and other new water storage technologies.

Summer Construction Project -- There was discussion about the 2017 Water Distribution and Sewer Collection System Improvement construction project, including communications with citizens and affected parties.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Ruth Post, MMC, City Recorder.