

City of Watseka
201 Brianna Dr
PO Box 38
Watseka, IL. 60970

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2018
7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Aldermen Cahoe, Barragree, Hoffmann, Dewitt, Garfield, Alderwomen Ulfers and Foster, Mayor Harwood

GUESTS: Joe Belott, and Amanda Odette with ERH, Van Calombaris with Robinson Engineering, Public Works Director Marvin DeLahr, Bob Harwood

Alderman Cahoe opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. There was no public comment. Joe Belott and Amanda Odette with ERH asked for any questions regarding the work report and there were none. Mr. Belott stated ERH crews were on the site at the water main break on E. Walnut St. A boring company bored through a 10 inch water main. There is a boil order in effect from 5th St to Walmart to the north and to the south of the railroad tracks.

Public Works Director Marvin DeLahr reported on the following projects:

Capital Equipment Evaluation: Robinson has presented a proposal to conduct a visual site inspection of the City owned water and wastewater systems. The proposal included associated cost, prioritization list, and a capital improvement list. Robinson proposes to complete the work for a not to exceed amount of \$25,600. Marvin and Van stated this list pertains to the remaining life of the major pieces of equipment that the City has, it is not to be considered an appraisal.

Alderman Garfield makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the proposal from Robinson for a not to exceed \$25,600 to conduct a visual site inspection of the City owned water and wastewater systems. Alderman Hoffmann seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.

Water & Wastewater: There was some discussion concerning the City taking the water and wastewater back in house. Van Calombaris with Robinson stated if ERH would decide to quit before the current contract is up Robinson Engineering could come in and do the work as an interim until the City could hire the proper people. **Alderman Dewitt makes a motion to recommend to the Council to go with the Robinson Proposal from last month and to not sell the water and wastewater systems to a private entity. Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 6-2 with Alderman Hoffmann and Mayor Allhands voting no.** Mayor Allhands stated he believes this is not an informed decision and where is the money going to come from? Alderman Cahoe stated there is 1.7 million in the water and wastewater fund, \$345,000 in the capital equipment fund, and \$145,900 in the 86 wastewater treatment fund. It was also stated when there was a public meeting a few years ago the residents voiced their opinion if the water and sewer rates were to go up the City needed to keep the system. Alderman Hoffmann stated taking the system back is the most expensive option and he and Mayor Allhands said they have had many people tell them to sell the system.

Test Well: Marvin called Joe Eisha with Layne today regarding the test well drilling. Mr. Eisha said they ran into some delay but they expect to be on-site Monday and completed by the end

of the next week.

West Water Tower: Rick Leber and Marvin have changed the scope of the proposed repairs to the water tower. They will be meeting with Metropolitan Pump for a revised proposal.

Emergency Generators: The issue of emergency generators has been on the table for over two years. This is an important safety net that the City needs to insure the water system remains operational at all time. Marvin got some preliminary estimates in January of 2017. For well #10 the cost is in the \$100,000 range, well #9 is in the \$80,000 range and well #6 is in the \$70,000 range. It was suggested to buy one and budget for the others.

Sewer Lining: Marvin has met with insituform regarding the by-pass pumping and they've decided to utilize the option of pumping directly to another manhole rather than into transfer trucks. This option may be costlier but more reliable. Marvin will be contacting the homeowners that will be affected. The estimated cost of the project is about \$293,000. The City is still waiting to see if it is grant eligible.

Park Expenses: There will be some significant expense next year for the parks. Both of the mowers will need to be replaced. Lakeview Park needs new fountains and all of the parks need new mulch under the playground equipment. Peters Park needs the swing set replaced. A ballpark estimated for these items is in the \$60,000 range.

Yard Waste Facility: The committee needs to look at raising the fees charged for outside entities that utilize the yard waste facility. First and foremost is the tree contractors. There are 3 of them that currently pay an annual fee of \$500. The City pays a separate contractor to bring a grinding machine in and grind all of the wood into mulch. This was done in November 2016 at a cost of about \$8,000. It needs to be done again but there is considerably more wood this time. The costs will probably be in the \$12,000 to \$15,000 range. Marvin's suggestion is to raise the fee to \$2,000 or \$2,500 for tree contractors. The City should also raise the \$300 landscaper fee to \$600 or more and to reevaluate the use of the facility by people that live outside the corporate limits. This will be discussed again soon.

Miscellaneous:

- a) Of the 123 trees on the list, all but 49 have been removed to date
- b) Metropolitan Pump has their contractor replacing the pumps at the Mulberry St. pump station
- c) The old well #8 building on E. Cherry St is almost ready to be turned over to the Auxiliary Police. The walk in door still needs to be replaced and the new garage door is ready to be installed. The electrical has been run and a new heater will be hung
- d) Morton Salt has not sent pricing for road salt for the upcoming year yet. Usually Marvin has received the order submittal by September. Marvin called them but haven't gotten an answer as of this afternoon.

Grant Manager Bob Harwood reported on the IDNR grant buyout program. The grant people are now requesting pictures of all 4 sides of the houses in the possible buyout along with any out buildings. Carla hopes to be done by the end of the month.

Mayor Allhands stated work is still in progress on the CSR rates for lowering flood insurance.

Alderman Cahoe makes a motion at 7:37 to adjourn and Alderman Barragree seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.

_____, Dennis Cahoe, Chairman