

City of Watseka
201 Brianna Dr
PO Box 338
Watsseka IL. 60970

PUBLIC WORKS/WATER WASTEWATER COMMITTEE MEETINGS
JULY 19, 2022
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Aldermen Cahoe, Marcier, Miller, Barragree, Alderwomen Ulfers and Musk and Mayor Allhands

ABSENT: Aldermen Garfield and Rushbrook

GUESTS: Public Works Director Loren Grosvenor, Keith Mulholland with Robinson Engineering

Alderman Cahoe opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Public Works Director Loren Grosvenor spoke first. He stated he started July 8th and has been trying to catch up. He stated he has been working with Keith Mulholland from Robinson Engineering on road projects. Loren also stated he is having staffing issues, he is 7 employees short, he had 3 employees quit and 4 have been absent at one time. 2 employees are out for COVID, they did the home test and it was positive so they are out for 5 days following CDC rules. The department has been very busy with fixing sink holes.

Unions were discussed next. The city will now have 2 different unions, operators and laborers and they are not identical. The labors start at \$16.50- \$19.00 and the operators start at \$20.25. Loren stated he and Mayor Allhands interviewed a candidate today who has good qualifications with underground work, locating, and a Class A CDL. The only issue is the large gap in pay. Alderman Cahoe stated he is not happy with the starting wage of \$16.50/hour when a few months ago the committee stated the starting wage would be \$19.00, Alderman Miller stated that was the union that put that in there. It was also stated in the labors contract it states a CDL is required. Loren stated he needs more people that have licenses, he would like to have 2 pool licenses and employees that can spray weeds, he himself is going to also get those licenses. Loren asked the committee about giving employees a bump in pay if they get the licenses, as this will motivate them to work harder. Loren also stated he wants to bring both departments together. It was discussed that calls and visits to Loren need to be very limited as he has a huge work load right now and he is trying to get everything prioritized. It was suggested to go through Dennis or Cathy with any questions or issues. Loren stated he is working on safety and compliance issues first and is asking for patience with projects. He is also working with Keith concerning potholes. Loren stated the employees are following leadership and have been very open minded. Pay ranges were discussed and the committee is going to let Loren handle this. Radio Read water meters were discussed next. Loren will meet with the Core & Main rep next week to get prices etc. Loren stated with 2 people reading meters that only leaves him 3 people for the rest of the jobs.

At 7:28 pm Alderman Marcier makes a motion to enter executive session for compensation, hiring, firing and work performance and Alderwoman Musk seconded. Roll call carried 7-0.

At 7:57 pm Alderman Marcier makes a motion to go back to regular session and Alderwoman Musk seconded. Roll call carried 7-0. Mayor Allhands sat during executive session pay ranges were discussed along with mechanical pay but this has been tabled for now.

Keith Mulholland with Robinson Engineering stated the bid for the Locust St project came in at \$203,056.64 which was under the engineers estimate of \$206,780.00. Keith explained this could have been done for \$ 143,440.00 less if when the ditch was constructed 70 years ago, they would not have put in 2-90-degree angles. Keith also stated if that pipe would have been 10 feet further away it would have been cheaper. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to accept the bid from IPC for the Locust St sanitary sewer improvement project for \$203,056.64 and Alderman Miller seconded. Roll call carried 7-0.**

Keith stated that the non MFT road project bid opened up at a cost of \$2,094,325.84 and the engineers estimate was \$1,854,727.80. Keith stated the pricing was very good from IPC. Keith also stated he has met with Dillion from IPC regarding the sidewalk project. Keith stated there will still be work done on every street but it will be adjusted somewhat to keep it at the \$1,854,727.80. Chicago St will be kept per plan, Virginia, Wabash, Seventh, 6th, will be patching only, Herron Ct and Division St will be kept as planned, Ash St will be from 4th to 6th only, Mulberry, Adams, Jefferson will be kept as planned, Grant St will be from 9th to 10th only, sidewalks between 6th to 8th on the north side, sidewalks: on the south side at 409 and 411 and across from 7th St, sidewalks at the post office and the old city hall will be done, and Lavicka landscaping will take care of the restoration work. Keith stated to pass as is and then IPC will change the scope of the work. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the IPC bid for the 2022 street resurfacing for \$2,094,325.84 and Alderwoman Ulfers seconded. Roll call carried 7-0.**

Keith stated the MFT project he suggests to wait till January to put out for bid because maybe by then the pricing will be stabilized and it might be a bit cheaper. The committee is ok with this.

Mayor Allhands state he has received information that the city has received \$2.35 million to do the Martin Ave. Road extension project.

Alderman Cahoe stated he has talked to IDOT in Ottawa concerning the ADA ramps and the storm sewers and he has received no response.

Discussion was had again concerning the radio read water meters and how to pay for them. It was suggested this could be paid from the water and sewer fund. A fire hydrant program was discussed also. Loren stated there has been no flushing done or flow testing. He would like to contract this out to get caught up and then it could be done in house. Loren also stated valves need to be exercised and a program set up to do regularly.

It was stated that when Loren started all the computers were wiped clean and he has no information available from the previous employees.

Loren stated he will be doing a walk through with Robinson Engineering on Wednesday at the waste water treatment plant to get caught up with any issues there.

There was a short discussion about doing 2 test wells behind city hall.

Well 6 was also discussed briefly concerning the discharge on a farm field, the city is still waiting on the EPA letter.

Loren stated the treatment plant has a good foundation, tools and good equipment it just needs some repairs and maintenance to bring it back up and running as it should be.

Loren also stated he needs to get in contact with Wessler regarding the GPS work they did.

Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to adjourn at 8:52 pm and Alderman Barragree seconded. Roll call carried 7-0.

Dennis Cahoe, Chairman