

City of Watseka
201 Brianna Dr
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PUBLIC WORKS/WATER WASTEWATER COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 18TH, 2022
6:57 PM

PRESENT: Aldermen Cahoe, Marcier, Barragree, Miller, Garfield, Alderwoman Musk, Mayor Allhands

ABSENT: Alderman Rushbrook

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

Alderman Cahoe opened the meeting at 6:57 pm. There was no public comment. Public Works Supervisor Loren Grosvenor reported on the following projects:

Meter Reading Improvements: Loren stated he ordered 475 radio read meters on 9/28/2022 and 475 meters will be ordered annually until we have enough.

Fire Hydrants: Loren stated Rogers Hydrant Service finished flow testing today and he should have a report in 2 weeks with the conditions and mapping. The next step will be the department will be painting hydrants the appropriate colors. There were 315 hydrants serviced and mapped. Loren stated there are a couple of issues at the west side tower, there are either valves closed or some that are in need of repair. Loren asked the committee about purchasing an automatic flushing device to use on the west side of town. Public works would install it and it would be put on dead-end locations for water quality improvements. The cost from Core and Main is \$4815.00, he would like to have two but is ok with just one at this time. **Alderman Garfield makes a motion to recommend to the council to purchase two automatic flushing devices from Core and Main for \$9630.00 and Alderman Marcier seconded.**

Roll call carried 7-0. Loren stated there are several hydrants out of service and he will be looking at those first.

Oxidation Ditch: Loren stated there is painting to do yet and change some valves around. The broken bypass has been ordered, the cost is about \$11,500.00

New Well: The new well process is moving forward, Loren is working with Robinson on getting permits and RFP for pricing. The city will install the transmission main from the new well to the filter for cost offset. There will only be well head at city hall, no building will be necessary.

Road Improvements: IPC had installed the storm sewer on Herron Ct. Curb and driveway aprons are started on Ash, Adams, and Jefferson. There was a lengthy discussion about the curbing company being behind and the committee is wondering if IPC will get the road projects that they have started done. Keith with Robinson Engineering stated if IPC cannot get the roads finished that they have started on they will be winterized until they can come back in the spring to finish. Loren asked if there is anything in the contract concerning a time frame. Keith stated he will look into this and get back to Loren and then it would be up to the city to enforce. Union Pacific has been in town this week working with Public Works on removing trees and brush along Kay St. several residents have stated how great it looks.

Drainage Project along E Walnut St: Loren and Keith both stated a culvert needs to be installed along Walnut St before the 8th St paving gets done in 2023. There are multiple trees

and brush that need to be cleaned out first. Keith gave the committee an estimated cost for nine hundred feet west of 8th St to 1580 feet east of 8th St for \$372,100.00. Loren stated removing the trees and brush would be a good wintertime project for his department. He stated he will contact TP&W and see if they will help with any of the clean up or at least with the safety portion of the project. The committee gave Loren the ok to move forward with contacting TP&W to see what kind of help he can get from them.

Staffing: Loren hired Zach Tobeck and he started 10-18-22. He will be conducting more interviews this week. He needs three more guys to have a full staff.

Miscellaneous: Loren stated he would like to purchase a gas detection meter from USA Bluebook for about \$1500.00. He thinks this is a safety tool that will be used a lot in confined spaces. **Alderman Marcier makes a motion to recommend to the Council to purchase a gas detection meter from USA Bluebook for about \$1500.00 and Alderman Miller seconded. Roll call carried 7-0.**

Loren gave the committee a copy of a proposed sign that he would like to have to put in the lots that the city mows. Loren stated he has been working with Eric and these signs would also help with the CRS program. The signs would be approximately one-by-one and public works would install them. He will work with Eric on the proper language for the signs. Loren will get more information and bring it back next month.

Alderman Miller asked about the brick retaining wall on N 4th St that is falling down. Loren will look into this.

Alderman Cahoe stated Finance Chairman Barragree told him public works spending has gone down \$200,000 since Loren has taken over.

Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to adjourn at 8:15 and Alderman Barragree seconded. Roll call carried 7-0.

Dennis Cahoe, Chairman