



CITY COUNCIL

Public Works Committee

***Monday, August 17, 2009
Meeting Report***

Committee Members Attending: M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, chair, S. Fuhs, D. Sterner

Others Attending: V. Spencer, R. Hottenstein, C. Jones, L. Kelleher

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz called the meeting to order at approximately 6 p.m.

Park Maintenance

Mr. Hottenstein stated that the City currently has three (3) active partnerships relative to City parks and playgrounds; Engleman, Alvernia, and Rotary Park. The Engleman's agreement is the longest existing, approximately 35 years. The most recent agreement is with Alvernia for Angelica Creek Park. This agreement is the most detailed.

Mr. Spencer noted that there is also an agreement with Reading School District for Hampden Park. Ms. Kelleher stated that this agreement was negotiated and approved in the 1980's and is a 99 year lease.

Mr. Fuhs inquired if the Administration is currently discussing outsourcing any of the City's parks that are located in the periphery as suggested by the Blue Ribbon Panel report. Mr. Hottenstein stated that the County is not interested in taking on any of the City's playgrounds and tot lots. The County is only interested in linear, trail type parks.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the County or Conservancy may be interested in taking on some of the larger open space parks. Mr. Hottenstein stated that he will discuss this issue with both parties.

Review of Audits of Capital Projects

Ms. Kelleher stated that City Auditor Dave Cituk would like the Committee's assistance in identifying the types of projects to be audited and or identifying a dollar amount over which an audit should occur. She stated that Mr. Cituk provided, by example, a purchase of the street

sweeper or a fire truck would cost between \$200,000 to \$1M; however various building projects such as the one recently completed at the Pagoda was approximately \$1.5M.

Mr. Fuhs inquired if the Charter sets out any specifics. Ms. Kelleher stated that the Charter only requires that audit occur for all capital projects. City Council could provide some definition by ordinance.

The Committee requested a listing showing all capital projects and their dollar amounts over the past 10 years. The list will enable the Committee to review the different project types and to define the requested specifics.

East Ends Contract

Mr. Younger stated that he has spoken to East Ends representatives. They claim that they have delivered the executed agreement to City Hall; however the Solicitor's office, Mayor's office, and City Council office has not seen the executed agreement.

Mr. Fuhs suggested providing time to allow East Ends to come up with the additional revenue that is required by the new contract.

Mr. Younger stated that as so much time has occurred through the negotiation process he is under the understanding that East Ends will not have a problem making the increased payment.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that East Ends also advise the City of their operational issues and costs.

Update: One Way Traffic on Kline Street

Mr. Hottenstein stated that this project is now complete.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that some neighbors on South 17th Street are displeased; however, the Kline Street residents are quite happy with the change. She noted that any change requires an adjustment period.

Installation of Stop Sign at North 4th and Oley Streets

Ms. Kelleher stated that this topic was requested by Mr. Waltman. He noted the problems and confusion drivers have at this intersection as currently this is only a two-way stop. Mr. Jones stated that the Public Works Department will complete a traffic study at this location.

Update: Dog Runs and Clean Up Stations

Mr. Hottenstein reported that the clean-up stations were installed at Angelica Park at a cost of \$263.25 each. He stated that the Administration has no additional plans for more clean-up stations or dog runs.

Cotton Street Repaving

Mr. Jones stated that trench restoration, not total repaving, is planned for Cotton Street.

Other Follow-Up Issues

Pothole – 5th and Penn Sidewalks

Mr. Jones requested that Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz follow up with him directly.

Pedestrian Light Signal

Mr. Jones stated that the Administration is considering utilizing a firm currently under state contract. He noted that an audit to include account of all light bulbs and their types needs to be completed.

Other Matters

Mr. Spencer inquired when Council will be receiving a Honeywell Savings Report. Mr. Hottenstein stated that the contract has not reached the reporting date as of yet. Mr. Sterner inquired if Hillside Playground will be charged for electric for their holiday display this Christmas. Mr. Jones replied that at this point the City does not plan to charge the organization for electricity. He explained that the City receives many electric bills; one is for Hillside Playground specifically.

The Public Works Committee adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

- Electronic billboards – City purchased light meter to measure the amount of lumens on electronic billboards which will allow enforcement
- Audit of Capital Projects completed and in progress by City Auditor
- Utility Billing Update
- Define capital Audit Terms
- Pedestrian Light Signal Update