

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting – August 25, 2015

Members Present: Phil Wedekind, Tom Kolb, and Mike Plautz. **Others Present:** Mayor Palm, Engineer Pinion, Wade Peterson, Chief M. Schauf, Chief Stieve, and Bob Koss.

Call to Order - Committee Chairman Phil Wedekind called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. at the City Service Building, 450 Roundhouse Court, Baraboo, Wisconsin. Compliance with the Open Meeting Law was noted. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve the agenda as posted and by voice vote, the motion carried. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2014 meeting. By voice vote the motion carried.

New Business

- a. Review and approval Water Utility's revised Bill Policy. – Peterson said that the Clerk's office asked for a few changes to be made to the policy that the Committee approved earlier; therefore, a few words were changed to make the policy more clear. The changes were just clarification for payment made versus payment received. Peterson said that payment have to be receipted by the 20th, and if not a late penalty will be imposed. Kolb asked why the 20th was such a big deal. Peterson stated that because there are a certain numbers of days that the City has to give citizens prior to physically disconnecting them. Kolb stated is disagreement with this. Peterson said that he could get something in the paper to clarify this policy. It was moved by Wedekind, seconded by Plautz to recommend approval of the revised Bill Policy. Themotion carried 2 to 1, Kolb voting no.
- b. Review and approval of North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition (NCWSC) Cooperative Agreement. – Pinion said that this policy is more housekeeping. The City is one of 12 communities that discharge into the Wisconsin River Watershed that have a population in excess of 10,000 and it was agreement that the City should join the group. Kolb asked if the attorney has reviewed this and Pinion answered in the affirmative. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Mike to recommend approval of North Central Wisconsin Storwater Coalition Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Discussion concerning increased traffic on Quarry Street as a result of the South Blvd. reconstruction project and the need for additional signage at its intersection with Maple Street.–Pinion said with the South Blvd. Construction there is increased traffic on Quarry Street. He said early in the construction citizens were concerned regarding safety issues. He went on to say that Chief Schauf has also looked at this and as one is looking at the topography traffic is coming up a steep hill and Maple Street is right at the top of the hill. He said that this would not be a good place to install a stop sign. It was stated that this is a three-way intersection. Pinion felt that the better place for signage, if warranted, would be at the next intersection, it would give a long leeway of visibility in both directions and it is a stopped controlled intersection. Pinion said that he consulted with Chief Schauf and it is felt that additional stop signage or intersection control is warranted in this condition. Kolb asked where the orange "slow down" signs come from. Schauf said that those are from the Sheriff as part of his re-election campaign. Kolb asked if a couple of those signs could be placed on Quarry as one is coming up the hill on both sides. Schauf said that his concern is that as soon as someone sees one of those signs they wonder where they came from and then everyone wants one and places them up. Koss asked if he could install "slow construction" signs there, because he feels that if the signs from the Sheriff were put up it could be felt that the City is endorsing Chip Meister. It was the consensus of the Committee that Koss would install black and orange "slow" signs up temporarily until the South Blvd. project is complete.
- d. Review and approval of salt purchase for the 2014/2015 winter season . – Koss said that he received notification from North American Salt that the jumped the price of salt from \$67.00/ton to \$112.00/ton. He went on to say that he went through Cargill and Morton; however, they would not even give him a price because they are too swamped with orders. He feels this is just a ploy to get more money. He said that Columbia County will sell it to the City for \$88.70/ton, and we would still have to haul it from Wyocena. He said that the City use to get the salt from Columbia County and haul from Wyocena until North American salt came in cheaper. He said that approximately \$167,000 per year is spent on salt and sand and he would like to keep the number the same, which means about 1200 tons (\$110,000) will be salt, the remainder will be sand/salt mixture, (2,000/tons). He said he will have enough salt to keep the mains and worst hills the entire winter season, but the secondary streets will be mostly sand.
- e. Request by Jim Greenwood to repair alley between 7th and 8th Avenues, from Broadway to Oak Street. Pinion said that Greenwood owns the property on the south side of the alley directly opposite the Community First Bank. He said that alley was done a few years back and there is a birdbath that has developed over the last couple of years and Mr. Green would like that to be repairs. He said that this is a significant enough patch that it would require repaving about 60 feet of the alley; therefore, he felt it would be best to bring it to the Committee. Pinion said that there is a contract issued every year for paving, Gasser is the perspective contractor this year and if the Committee would like this done, Gasser will do it as part of their patches. Pinion said that there is money in the budget for alley repairs and then for general patching. Pinion was directed to get a cost associated with this patching and bring it back to the August meeting.
- f. Request by Mary Sauer for consideration of special payment arrangements for her refuse and recycling carts due to a financial hardship situation. Pinion said that of the course of putting the automated cart collection program in full swing, some people ordered them and paid for them and the rest were invoiced. He said during the midst of this Ms. Sauer has requested for consideration or relief for the cost of the carts. Because she didn't respond or order carts ahead of time, two carts were delivered to her residence and she was invoiced \$101.00 and she is indicating that she simply does not have the ability to pay. Pinion said that the City does not have anything hard and fast in terms of rules of how one qualifies and if they do qualify, what type of relief they can get. Wedekind said that this is something that has to be looked at very closely; however, he feels that there are some options that could be done. Sauer asked what she is suppose to do with the carts when she sells her home, because it is for sale. Wedekind said that the carts stay with the house; however, Pinion said that if she purchases the carts then she can take them with her wherever she goes. Wedekind felt that it could be written that they would be paid for when the house is sold and asked Geick if this would be logically. Geick said because the City doesn't have legal means other than billing it and placing it on the tax roll as a special

charge. Sauer stated that she didn't want any more placed on her tax roll. Kolb feels that a policy needs to be made and cannot be made on an individual basis. Pinion said that out of the 3500 households that the City has for refuse and recycling collection, this is the first such request and there is approximately 800 property owners left to pay. Jackson said that there have been three other households that have sent in partial payments toward their invoices. It was decided that some type of policy would be worked on and brought back to the next meeting.

Reports

- a. **Utility Superintendent's Report** – Peterson said that he has started his 2015 budgets. He said that Hilltop apartments at the top of Martin Street has four building with two apartments in each, there is a two-inch service that feeds all four of the unit which blew out at the end of January. He said that the Utility was unable to get to the curb stop; therefore, they had to go up there, dig it up and fix the curb stop. The property owner has been sent several messages, bills and he has still not repaired it. He said that all eight units are currently fed off a fire hydrant. He said that about two weeks ago he sent the property owner a letter stating that this was the end of that and on August 4, if he has not got arrangement to have this fixed, the fire hydrant would be shut off. He said that this week he will also be sending letters to all the tenants informing them that he has not seen any action from the landlord and as of this date service will be disconnected from the fire hydrant. Pinion said that this is an interesting situation because they can't pinpoint exactly where the leak is, so the worst case is going to be a couple hundred feet of pavement with some curb so the property owner was told that the City wanted a \$5,000 bond and that is what caused him to step back. Peterson said that the owner did put a claim in with his insurance company and it was denied. Peterson said that the water had to run all winter long or the hydrant would have frozen. He said that they created a separate bill for it and he has been billed and has never paid a single one, but he never does all the regular bills for the apartments always go on the tax roll.
- b. **Street Superintendent's Report** – Pinion said that South Blvd. is going good and Amber Wilkinson, the intern hired is doing an excellent job communicating with the affected businesses. He said Warren Mohar, Construction Manager has volunteered every other Wednesday evening for an informational session for the businesses. Wedekind asked why the gravel is piled in the parking lot. Peterson said that is some of the base rock for Mine Road project.
- c. **Police Chief's Report** – Chief Schauf said the department is wrapping up the planning for the Circus Parade and will be ready for that next week. He said they are hoping for crowds 10,000 plus. Kolb asked if they are bussing people in for the event. Schauf said that there are three locations, the old Isenbergs, old Sears lot, and also the Circus World Museum parking lot. They are using the Bar Buddies bus to shuttle people in. Plautz asked if people were allowed to put out chairs and Schauf said that it is a public boulevard and couldn't promise that their chair would still be there.
- d. **Fire Chief's Report** – Chief Stieve said that the department lost another member June 1st; they just didn't have enough time. He said that he will be running a hiring process this week, the physical ability test on be Wednesday afternoon. He said that he started with 8 or 10 applications, but upon contacting them, they don't get back to him; therefore, he is down to five or six. He said the roster at this time is at 38. Kolb asked what the optimum number was and Stieve said that he is budgeted for 43. He said that there a couple applicants that are trained firefighters already, he said that he is taking a position description change, some language as far as their residency upon hire is the 15 mile rule. Wedekind asked how many firefighters were in training at this time. Stieve stated that that he started out with 11 and a couple of them were trained when they came and just finished probation. He said that he has five orange helmets, but they will be moving to a black helmet with an orange shield. He said that they are certified Firefighter 1 already, but there is an orientation program that is always a work in progress as far as what skills he wants them to do, and an evaluation sheet was just built where the firefighters are tested out on the skills in the book currently. Stieve then explained the significance of each colored helmet.

ADJOURNMENT – Kolb moved, Plautz seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Wedekind, Chairman