

Public Works Committee
Thursday, September 21st, 2023
(Hybrid Meeting)

Members Present: Lisa Reeves, Ben Heili, Jordan Tilleson, Christina Scanlon, & Mayor Tim Swadley

Absent/Excused: Tom Majewski and Kay Rashka,

Staff: Planning Director Rodney Scheel & Public Works Director Brett Hebert

Guests: City Forrester; John Kemppainen

Call to Order: *Hebert* called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

1) **Communications:**

Directors Hebert and Scheel gave construction updates.

2) **Approve August 17th, 2023 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Scanlon to approve the minutes and seconded by Tilleson. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business:

3) **Discuss New Tree Planting Care and Mortality Rates:**

Director Hebert and the City Forester; John Kemppainen gave an update on new tree mortality rates. The City averages less than 5% mortality rate per planting season which is pretty good.

4) **Discussion and Possible Action to Restructure the Tree Commission:**

Director Hebert suggested to rewrite the city ordinance to dissolve the Tree Commission. Before there was a City Forester, the Tree Commission had more of an active role in the Urban Forrest. Now that we have a fall time Forrester on staff the role of the Tree Commission has been diminished.

Motion by Tilleson to dissolve the Tree Commission duties to the Public Works Committee. Staff shall work on rewriting the ordinance and bring back to Public Works in October, seconded by Reeves. Motion carried 5-0

5) **Discussion and Possible Action to Recommend a Five-Year Extension to the Johns Disposal Solid Waste Collection Contract:**

Director Hebert advised that Johns is asking for a \$.48 increase for 2024. This is allowed with the contract.

Motion by Reeves to recommend to approve rate increase for 2024, seconded by Helli. Motion carried 5-0

6) Discussion and Possible Action to Amend the Snow and Ice Removal Policy for Multi-Use Path Maintenance:

Discussion was had about snow removal on new multi-use paths, Commercial and multi-use properties most likely having a contractor to clean snow and would have larger equipment to clean snow from wider multi-use paths.

Motion by Tilleson to amend policy to require the City to clear snow from multi-use paths greater than 6 feet on properties zoned for single or two family residential, seconded by Reeves. Motion carried 5-0

7) Review and Possible Action to Renew the Contract for Mowing at Riverside and Wheeler Prairie Cemeteries:

Director Hebert advised the Hamacher Lawn Care proposed extending the lawn care contract at Riverside and Wheeler Prairie for an additional three years at no additional cost to the City.

Motion by Reeves to approve the contract renewal with Hamacher, seconded by Tilleson. Motion carried 5-0

8) Approve R- -2023 – Acceptance of Public Improvements – 51 West Development:

Director Scheel highlighted the public improvement made in the 51 West Subdivision.

Motion by Tilleson to approve as presented in the packet and recommend approval to Council, seconded by Reeves. Motion carried 5-0

9) Future Agenda Items:

- a) **Discuss the Rental of City Property for Lease for Agricultural Planting and Harvesting**
- b) **Pedestrian Hill Surface Remediation**

10) Adjourn: Motion by Reeves to adjourn, seconded by Tilleson to adjourn the meeting at 7:07pm. Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted by Jen Wagner 10/9/2023