

Minutes
Public Works Committee
May 4, 2020
6:00 p.m.
3rd committee meeting

Members present were Interim Chairman Mayor Merritt, Committee members Michael Reynolds and Carol King all present remotely. Public Works Director Matt Fleahman was present remotely and City Administrator Brandon Madden was present on site at city hall.

1. Call to Order- Mayor Merritt

2. Public Comment- None

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

a. Public Works Committee Meeting: April 6, 2020

Councilwoman King made a motion to accept the minutes with Councilman Reynolds seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

a. Department Reports

Public Works Director Matthew Fleahman

- o Springfield Park Basketball Court Update- The basketball court at Springfield Park has historically had fencing around the entire court and recently the fencing has only been in areas behind the basketball rims. Due to no fencing being present on either side of the court, vehicles can drive onto the court from the parking lot. Additionally, local residents have been seen driving four-wheelers on the court surface as well. City Council recently funded the refurbishing of the basketball surface and the work is almost complete.

The Public Works Department will restrict vehicular traffic in order to promote the longevity of the new asphalt basketball surface. The proposed fencing will be four-foot-tall, black, chain link fencing with gate access on both sides. The addition of fencing on both sides will be

funded with the \$6228.72 remaining funds from the basketball court refurbishing project. Any overage will be paid for by Public Works.

Councilman Reynolds asked if the fence would be too close to those playing basketball. Should it be a taller fence for safety purposes? Matt said a taller fence starts looking a cage, but we do have quotes for taller fencing as well. Councilman Reynolds asked if the four-foot fence could be placed far enough back to not impinge on the people playing basketball. Matt answered yes. Mayor Merritt said there is a foot and a half or two feet out of bounds, and the fence would be behind that.

Councilman Reynolds asked if this could be piggybacked with the installation of the playground equipment and done by the same contractor.

- o Storm Water Update for Springfield Park

Mayor Merritt said he is very interested in this and has gone down to take pictures. Matt reported stormwater comes down to where the playground equipment will be located. There is no grass there.

The department evaluated it and determined a catch basin should be installed near the base of the parking lot and 750 feet of piping will need to be placed to go down to the creek. This should address the whole stormwater issue all at once. The water also pools down at the concession stand. Mayor Merritt said there is definitely standing water in the stream. In the past, there were gutters and curbing. The gutters and curbing are almost done. Mayor Merritt would suggest the curbing be replaced. Also, if the brush is removed from the catch basin, water may flow again. Along the fence line near the baseball field, there is a 12-18-inch pipe there, and the grate is also totally blocked with sediment. He thinks there is some low hanging fruit that may help before we do a 750-foot stormwater project that is outside the budget. He is not in favor of this unless there is money left over for park maintenance. Mayor Merritt does not want to take money out of street stormwater.

Matt said the lower catch basin has a tree growing there that has pushed up the asphalt. He originally thought about taking the tree away, but it is of significant value. Matt said taking the tree down would be beneficial if the city was willing to do that.

Councilman Reynolds said he has concerns about the funding as well. He would like it to come out of capital projects with the playground equipment, and not stormwater. There are other issues that need to be taken care of. Councilman Reynolds asked if \$7500 would take care of the issue. Matt said that would mitigate some of it. To do the entire project correctly, would cost \$22,000. Councilman Reynolds thanked Mr. Fleahman for being proactive and trying to protect the investment we just made in the playground equipment.

Brandon said funding was set aside for the project. It does not seem appropriate to make an investment in the playground and the lower baseball fields and then still have the stormwater issue. If we receive a significant rain the playgrounds will flood. There is funding in Streets for drainage projects. This is money that is set aside for drainage projects on city property or rights of way. Mayor said that was good, this money would not take away from residents that needed stormwater attention.

Councilwoman King said committee needs to go with staff's recommendation considering the funding source Mr. Madden just explained and the investment we have just made in the playground equipment.

Budget Review- Matt reported that Parks Street and Sanitation are where they should be. Sewer is higher than where they need to be.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Brookbend Road- This was brought to committee last month and tabled.

There is a pipe that has failed from her property on 136 Brookbend Road and the water is not flowing properly. The material cost to repair was estimated to be around \$6,000. The City offered to do the work if the property owner bought the materials. The property owner declined to buy the materials.

A utility easement would be requested from 132 Brookbend Road if Council decides the City should absorb the cost. The timeline for the project would be 6-8 weeks. Mayor Merritt asked for the total cost including shifting the current catch basin and installing a new one. Brandon said \$5825 is the total for the project. Matt said because of the location of the pipe, concrete fill needs to be put in her existing line and is included in the total. Councilman Reynolds asked how much of the estimate is that part- filling the line with the flowable fill. Matt said about \$2000.00.

Councilman Reynolds said he drove by the property and there is an issue there. His concern comes back to homeowners having an investment in their property, not just the City funding the entire project.

Councilwoman King agreed with Councilman Reynolds. She feels for the homeowner, but she is not opposed to obtaining an easement and have the homeowner pay for some of the cost of the pipe, the \$2000. She would like to see a stormwater fund in the future that we can draw from. She believes this is a slippery slope, but wants to help the city residents. Mayor Merritt said he remembers the project in Forrester Woods where the City took responsibility for something was not our problem.

Mayor Merritt reminded Committee that Council had a stormwater briefing last week and it is clear the City is a co-permittee with Greenville County. We do not do work on private property, unless there are mitigating circumstances, as in this case. We did not install the pipe. He is ok with getting the easement and putting a new catch basin in. There is a public good in that. Once the water is redirected, Ms. Federline should step up to repair her yard. Each property owner in Forrester Woods fixed their own sink holes and landscaped their yards. Redirecting the water helps the public good in the neighborhood. The sinkhole is on private property and our law is clear.

Councilwoman King asked if it is appropriate for committee to request that Mr. Madden reach out to Ms. Federline to see if she would be willing to pay for part of the pipe at least. She does not have a problem with moving this item to Council if we have a response from the property owner.

Councilman Reynolds agreed with that. Matt said the \$5800 does not include attorney's fees or right-of-way acquisition. Mayor Merritt said staff will be asked to pursue options with Ms. Federline. Councilwoman King made a motion to send this item to Council pending discussions and compromise with Ms. Federline. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion. Mayor Merritt said he does not believe a motion to forward something to Council can be conditional. Councilwoman King amended her motion to send the item to Council. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion to forward this to Council. Staff will be directed to negotiate with Ms. Federline on this. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

6. New Business

a. Request to Move Funds to Streets Capital for Skid Steer-

Authorization is requested to move a portion of the funds generated from the sale of old / damaged equipment from the Capital Projects Fund to Budget Line 431-000-970 for the Capital Purchase of a skid steer.

The Public Works Department made a request through the Public Works Committee during the January meeting to sell the old, outdated, and/or damaged equipment which is stored at several locations around the City. After being authorized through Committee and subsequently by City Council, Public Works listed and sold the items on the Gov Deals website. After completing all the sales, a total of \$75,473.57 was generated and added, per the City's Surplus Property Disposal Policy, the City's Capital Projects Fund. It was the intention of Public Works to return to the Public Works Committee and the City Council after the sales were complete in order to make a recommendation on any use of this revenue.

The Public Works Department would like to transfer \$64,000 within the Capital Projects Fund to Budget Line 431-000-970 for the Capital Purchase of a skid steer to be maintained by the Streets Department. Public Works performs a lot of different jobs that require different equipment. A skid steer allows for the purchase of attachments for different jobs at a reduced cost.

Mayor Merritt asked if the proceeds from the sales went into the General Fund or to the Capital Projects Fund. Brandon answered Capital Projects, but it is mostly made up of General Fund dollars. This item created some confusion at the budget workshop. It was always meant to be presented in this manner during this budget year, but somehow it ended up in the budget for next year.

There are times that the existing equipment is not enough to do what we need to do for the City. This purchase will allow Public Works to do more "exotic" jobs in house. Councilman Reynolds asked what would happen to the other skid steer. Matt said Public Works will keep and still use it. Councilwoman King made a motion to forward this item to Council for the capital purchase of a skid steer and to transfer \$64,000 within the Capital Projects Fund to 431-970. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion.

Mayor Merritt asked what attachments the skid steer would come with. Matt said this would come with a flat bottom bucket and the department could look at purchasing additional accessories next budget year. The vote was unanimous to send this item to Council (3-0).

7. Public Comment

Councilman Black said the first paragraph of the Brookbend summary said the house was built in 1967. They moved into the neighborhood in 1972, and it was a vacant lot then. He asked if there was any way to utilize the existing catch basin and put in a new pipe. Matt said the plan was to reuse the existing catch basin into a new catch basin. There will not be a new one on Brookbend Road. Matt said where the catch

basin is, they need to go into the vacant lot at an angle into a new catch basin. Councilman Black said then the existing catch basin will still be used and then a new one built.

Councilman Black asked what if Ms. Federline cannot afford the \$2000? What happens then? This is not her fault. If she does not agree or does not have the money, where does the project stand? Matt said he could get the stormwater off the property, but her pipe could continue to collapse and open up another sink hole. Councilman Black said she did not create it, the City did not create it either, but she still has a problem. Councilman Black said if we do not fix this, how will the water affect Mr. Ireland's vacant lot? The water needs to go back to the creek.

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjourn- Chairman Mayor Merritt adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk

