

MINUTES
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021, 6PM
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5 E. BUTLER ROAD

Committee Members: Jason Kraeling (Chair), Carol King, Michael Reynolds

Others present: Brandon Madden, City Administrator, and PW Director Matt Fleahman

1. Call to Order- Chairman Kraeling
2. Public Comment- None
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Works Committee Meeting: August 2, 2021

Motion: Councilwoman King made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Reynolds seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

- a. Public Works Director Matt Fleahman

Budget Review- The budget is in line with where it needs to be. Purchase orders have been issued for a few new public works vehicles.

Inmate Labor- The City of Mauldin has historically used inmate labor to offset costs in providing sanitation services to City residents. In March 2020, the use of inmates was restricted due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The City initially used Public Works staff as riders to provide sanitation services; however, this limited the number of staff available to provide the other services in Public Works (i.e., sewer, streets, parks and grounds, and facility maintenance). In June 2020, the City determined that it would be in the City's best interest to initiate the use of temporary employees to fill these sanitation roles and allow the Public Works employees to return to their other duties. The City continues to employ temporary employees and the use of inmate labor remains restricted.

The annual fiscal impact for the inmates is \$117,634. The City pays the SCDOC per inmate per day. The inmates must be picked up and dropped off. We provide the inmates lunch, and there are other associated costs. The City approved \$75,634 in its FY2022 budget for inmate labor. Once the City receives its side-loading trash trucks, only four temporary employees are needed to ride on the back of trash trucks. In a side-by-side comparison the cost of four temporary employees (\$133,120 per year) exceeds the cost of inmates (\$117,634 per year) which is a difference of \$15,486.

Councilman Reynolds asked about the bus we use to take the inmates back and forth and how it was funded. Mr. Fleahman said the City sold scrap metal and made enough money to buy the bus.

Councilman Reynolds asked if any of the temporary employees have been hired full-time. Mr. Fleahman said we have hired a few of them, and they are all great employees.

This item was for information only.

5. Unfinished Business- There is no unfinished business.

6. New Business- There is no new business.

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjournment- Chairman Kraeling adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk