

**STREETS AND SANITATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

*August 24, 2009  
6:30 p.m.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Soeldner  
Jason Sladky  
Nick Levendusky  
Jim Brey  
Ray Geigel

**STAFF PRESENT**

Valerie Mellon  
Greg Minikel  
Sonja Birr  
Randy Junk  
Mike Huck

**OTHERS**

Ald. Scott McMeans  
Steve Thiele  
Kent Wall  
Peggy Wall

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**Approval of the Minutes from 07/27/09**

R. Geigel made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2009 meeting. J. Sladky seconded the Motion.

Motion carried unanimously. No further discussion.

**Snow Plowing Operation - Review of Strategies, Efficiencies and Plans for Future**

Randy Junk gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the services performed by the Department of Public Works. He briefly described some of the history of the Department of Public Works. He noted through the years the number of employees has decreased but the miles of city streets has increased.

R. Junk reviewed the general street services and maintenance that is provided to the city. Snow and ice control along with general plowing and the pick up schedule were also explained to the Committee. R. Junk welcomed any of the Aldermen to ride along during a general plow to understand the operation.

The DPW also maintains storm, sanitary and lift stations. They provide traffic control throughout the City. Maintenance of bridges and harbors are also taken care of by the DPW.

R. Junk and M. Huck reported the budget impact and the revenue received from services and repairs. M. Huck discussed the 2008-2009 snow season memo.

**Sidewalk Complaint - Trip Hazard**

V. Mellon explained to the Committee the sidewalk remove and replace program and the trip complaint program. Property owners are given

sufficient time to make repairs or replace their own sidewalk. After the allotted time expires, the sidewalk inspector will mark any slabs not repaired with a pink "X", which indicates the slabs that need to be replaced by the City contractor. This is when the property owner called the City and requested an extension to make the repairs himself.

Mr. Steve Thiele was present to dispute a sidewalk complaint letter to repair his walk per the City Ordinance. He called the city after it was marked with the pink "X" and asked for an extension to fix the walk himself. Mr. Thiele disputed the language in the letter that he received. The location of the green dot was in the area the slab was raised in the fall. In spring the slab moved back down and was no longer in violation of the City Ordinance. K. Wilker inspected this area to find that the other end of the slab was raised  $\frac{3}{4}$ " requiring repair or replacement. Mr. Thiele believed, due to the wording in the letter, that the "X" was marked where the slab needed repair. He said he did not have a problem with replacing the slab; however, he would like to see the wording in the letter changed from 'portions' to 'slabs'. His confusion was the marking of the green dot. According to his interpretation of the letter he was led to believe that the marking is the area of the slab that needs replacement.

G. Minikel explained that it is rare that the City would allow partial replacement of a slab, but after further reading the letter could understand the confusion.

The Committee denied Mr. Thieles request for a time extension but recommends revising the letter for future use.

#### **Right-of-Way Encroachment Letters**

D. Soeldner expressed his concerns with sending out the right-of-way encroachment letters and taking something like this on. He believes this may cause liability issues that aren't necessary. He also believes that there is more cost versus benefit.

V. Mellon said Juliana recommended the letters should only be sent to the property owners that we are aware of and not canvas the whole city. D. Soeldner said that this is going to pose complaints and further concerns. G. Minikel explained that there are so many of these continuing to be built throughout the city. D. Soeldner thought a possible education process would be a better approach. The cost to send out encroachment letters and maintain the insurance certificates on an annual basis is going to be significant.

N. Levendusky was curious if we have discussed with other cities to find out how they handled these encroachments. The option to grandfather existing encroachments was also discussed.

The Committee recommends for the City Attorney's office to hold some discussions with other cities to find out if there are any other policies currently in place and bring back to the Committee.

**Broadway Street Bridge Design Work**

G. Minkel reported that they will be meeting with our consultant, AECOM, this coming week to discuss the continuing slope failure issues on the northeast corner of the bridge. There are a number of alternatives to be considered. Money will need to be rolled over to test, monitor and design the work. We need the necessary data to determine the proper design fix which may include allowing it to continue to settle and just continue to patch the sidewalk as has been done in the past.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Lift Station Update**

J Sladkey asked how far we were on lift station repairs. V. Mellon said we had an independent investigation performed by Donahue Associates to determine the amount of settlement of the generator room and what needs to be done to fix the problem. The letter was submitted to Robert E. Lee, Vinton and Lunda. These three companies are to discuss the findings and come to an agreement on who is at fault and bring back a proposed solution.

The City will compare their proposal to the Donahue recommendation and decide whether to accept the contractor's proposed fix and amend the contract completion time.

*D. Soeldner adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.*



---

Valerie Mellon, P.E.  
Director of Public Works  
and City Engineer