

**STREETS AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

November 8, 2010
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Soeldner
Jason Sladky
Allan Schema
Nic Levendusky
Jim Brey (arrived at 7:07)

STAFF PRESENT

Valerie Mellon
Greg Minikel
Sonja Birr
Mike Huck
Juliana Ruenzel
Jim Muenzenmeyer
Gregg Kadow
Derek Muench

OTHERS

Michael Check
Sherry De Roche
Thomas Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Approval of the Minutes from 10/25/10

N. Levendusky made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2010 meeting. J. Sladky seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Muskrat Trapping Contract Review

Juliana Ruenzel, City Attorney, put together a Non-Exclusive License for Animal Trapping at Stormwater Ponds. This contract includes an Assumption of Risk Clause because the trapper doesn't have insurance. This does not completely protect the City as we will be assuming the risk. The benefit is that the work is done for free and the risk is rather low as the trapping takes place in the water, and stormwater ponds are off limits to the public. Also, the contract requires adherence to state trapping laws which also minimizes the risk and Dan is a very experienced and responsible trapper.

J. Ruenzel is drafting a separate contract for the zoo. They are similar but specific to the Parks.

Discussion Regarding Beaupre Court Fence

G. Minikel referenced the previously sent e-mails to the Committee and discussion was held regarding the work that was approved at the last meeting for additional gravel, removal of trees and fence to be done on Beaupre Court. Mr. Thomas Johnson came to the Engineering Department wondering what was happening as his dog got out from the fenced area when the utility locators were on-site and left the gate open. Mr. Johnson requested the fence to be replaced by the City as he has been maintaining this property for many years. G. Minikel said the City is not responsible for replacing the fence because it is on city right of way. Mr. Johnson said he has been maintaining this

property for many years and felt he is entitled to the City replacing the fence.

V. Mellon said it is our fence, it is on City right of way and we don't pay to fence other properties. She said only a portion of the fence will be removed.

N. Levendusky asked if the fence could be re-used. Greg and Val both thought the fence was worn out and would likely not be salvaged and reused elsewhere on City property.

The Committee asked Juliana Ruenzel for her opinion. J. Ruenzel has not done any research; however, if the fence is on City right of way we are not required to replace this fence.

G. Minikel said that we could put up temporary orange fence or wooden snow fence across the property line until the property owner could replace it. The Committee recommended the wooden fence be installed along Mr. Johnson's east property line when the work is done in spring - only if Mr. Johnson wants it. The City would leave the temporary fence in place for approximately one year to allow Mr. Johnson time to install a new permanent fence if he wants to.

Discussion of Resolutions Affecting Vehicle Fleet

D. Soeldner wanted discussion of the two Resolutions presented by Ald. Kadow to be discussed separately.

D. Soeldner explained that this is only for discussion and fact finding purposes and no action will be taken on either Resolution at this meeting, since they were referred for action to the Personnel Committee.

Resolution (10-607) to eliminate the Vehicle Allowance for the Mayor and City Engineer was referred to Personnel Committee.

The first discussion was in reference to the \$300/month vehicle allowance that the Mayor and City Engineer receive.

V. Mellon explained that she is required to keep track of her mileage and is taxed on anything over and above her allowance.

J. Sladky asked Valerie if this was to be part of the compensation that was agreed upon when she was hired. V. Mellon said that this was part of her compensation offered as she was not able to get more vacation time that she requested. A copy of the acceptance letter was distributed to the Committee.

Resolution (10-606) restricting City Employees from taking City vehicles home overnight on a daily basis, was referred to Personnel Committee.

D. Soeldner presented the next Resolution regarding the overnight vehicle take home policy.

J. Sladky questioned the managers that were present if this was part of their compensation when they were hired. All of the managers present said that it wasn't part of their compensation.

A. Schema questioned the approximate maintenance cost per vehicle? V. Mellon said the only other minor cost that they could think of was the cost of an oil change per vehicle that could be added, since things like tires would be unaffected because the mileage is minimal. The cost report from Kevin Glaeser, DPW, just calculates the gas being used.

D. Muench's vehicle is used as a Revenue vehicle at times when he needs to transport passengers and is funded through separate Transit funds.

N. Levendusky said the City Surveyor's vehicle carries expensive equipment in it and is safer parked in a garage than outside in the City lot. D. Soeldner asked how many vehicles have been vandalized in the City lot. There weren't any that could be thought of. The Committee agrees that some of the vehicles could be left in the City parking lot overnight.

J. Brey said this entire issue has been debated countless times at Public Property and Safety meetings and has been rejected because it doesn't provide a huge savings and other inefficiencies result in an overall increase in costs.

D. Muench said that when on call the vehicle is ready with equipment to get to the location in a timely manner.

J. Brey questioned the turnout gear for firefighters. G. Kadow said that they have their 2nd set of gear at home. This allows for responding to calls right from home.

J. Brey questioned if this was part of the City budget. No it is not.

J. Brey made a motion for the Streets & Sanitation to go against the resolution. There was no second for the motion. (Because the issue is only for discussion and not action.)

D. Soeldner, J. Sladky and N. Levendusky have concerns with certain city vehicles being taken home. Building Inspection, Parks and the City Surveyor vehicle are the ones in question.

Discussion of Proposed Budget with Respect to DPW Capital Projects and Operations

The Committee asked if any items were requested by DPW/Engineering and removed in the Mayor's budget. V. Mellon explained to the Committee the items from the Capital Improvement budget defunded by the Mayor

Engineering budgeted \$120,000 for R&R Sidewalk Replacement and \$60,000 in New Sidewalk, the Mayor defunded \$30,000 from the sidewalk program. He also defunded \$50,000 from the \$100,000 Epoxy Painting line.

V. Mellon said that she wants to be a team player, but she wants to point out the risk of not keeping up the pavement markings throughout the City. However, we have not painted over the past couple years and will continue to prioritize and replace only in the intersections that are most needed at this time. She also said the R&R Sidewalk program is subject to trip and fall claims, so she would like to keep in the budget and eliminate the curb and gutter replacement. Also, the sidewalk is a revenue line item and curb and gutter is not.

V. Mellon also said that we can hold off another year without replacing DPW vehicles. However, the Committee needs to know that these vehicles are given to the inspectors in the Engineering Department so there will be higher miles on them.

She also urged that the Anti-icing equipment remain, because in the big picture, this could be paid back in 3 years due to the cost savings on overtime costs.

M. Huck said that we will still attempt to find the money from 2010 budget, depending on the amount of snow we have in November and December.

J. Sladky made a motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. N. Levendusky seconded the motion.



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