

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Minutes – June 2, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Public Works Committee for the City of Monona, via Zoom, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Committee Chair, Jennifer Kuhr.

Members Present: Alder Kuhr, Alder Thomas, Ms. Piliouras, Mr. Stolper, Mr. Turino, Mr. Podell, Mr. Speight

Members Absent: Ms. Gundlach, Mr. Besch

Also Present: Brian Glaszcz, Ayers & Associates, City Planner Doug Plowman, Public Works Director Dan Stephany

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alder Thomas and seconded by Mr. Turino to approve the Minutes of the May 5, 2021 Public Works Committee meeting was carried.

APPEARANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion and consideration of water use credit request for 1220 Femrite Drive office complex.

Director Stephany provided the water meter test record in the packet for review, as requested from the April meeting. The packet for review also included the same information that was presented at the April meeting; the water billing history, and the water meter profile graphs. The meter test record for a 1” meter shows the meter is 100% accurate at the 5 gallon per minute flow rate, and dropping to 86% accurate at the 3 gallon per minute flow rate. At the low flow rate, no water was measured that passed through the meter. The meter test record showed that the meter was not over-reading, or reading high, but reading low, in favor of the resident or owner.

Mr. Turino asked more follow up questions of Mr. Card and stated he has trouble understanding how 270 gallons of water can go through a leaking toilet in an hour, based on what the meter profile graphs are showing.

Mr. Speight asked why Mr. Card wasn't questioning the higher water bill the previous three billing periods. Mr. Card stated he was a new building owner and thought the previous bills were within reason. He didn't think there was an issue until he received the current water bill.

Alder Kuhr mentioned the committee doesn't have a history of approving water credit requests and cautioned that if the committee approves this request that there will be a precedent the committee will approve the requests in the future. If water credits are approved, then it passes the added costs on to other users of the system. The whole picture should be looked at and not just this case. Mr. Turino added that it is all well and good if it's a justified expense, stating the meter didn't read within AWWA Standards and that the meter is inaccurate. Director Stephany added that the meter tested inaccurate on the low side, not high side, meaning it reads inaccurate in favor of the property owner.

Mr. Speight stated that if he reads the test data correctly, at a very low flow rate the meter is not accurate to benefit the property owner. It is data from a test that shows at the low flow rates water was being under recorded. At the higher rate the meter was reading correct. If the meter was over reading and over charging the property owner, he would support some sort of adjustment to the water bill. The test shows the meter is accurate or under reads.

Alder Thomas says there was no evidence the meter was behaving improperly on the high side. We do not have the ability to make exceptions when somebody has faulty plumbing and moved to deny the claim.

A motion was made by Alder Thomas and seconded by Mr. Speight to deny the water credit request was carried. Mr. Stolper and Mr. Turino opposed.

Discussion on Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan.

For follow up discussion, Alder Kuhr discussed a traffic management template that was included in the packet for review. The template from Clive, Iowa was included in the packet for discussion. Discussion points include:

- The plan discusses low cost low impacts before major changes or upgrades are made.
- The plan includes a process for citizens to request a review, and actions based on data.
- The plan requires input and buy in from the neighborhood, participation requirements from the citizens are included in the process.
- Solutions are recommended by an engineer, and not determined by residents.
- Recommendations are only approved based on City Council approval and funding.
- PD gets involved before further measures are taken to reduce speeding concerns; speed monitoring, traffic counts, enforcement.
- A street must meet prequalification standards to be eligible for the program.

No action was taken. This topic will be on future agendas for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and consideration of water use credit request for 6101 Sylvan Lane

Mr. Stapleton made a public appearance at the May meeting to explain his meter billing issue and asked to be put on the June agenda. Director Stephany provided a summary of the issue regarding the billing. The charges and water used were significantly higher than past billings. A copy of Mr. Stapleton's bill was included in the packet for review, as well as the third party water meter test record and graphing from the water meter profile. The topic generated a lot of discussion, mainly around the water meter profile charts not indicating the flow being passed through the meter as conveyed by the billing. Key discussion points focused on the water meter profile charts not showing or indicating high usage spikes and only topped out at 6 cubic feet of flow. A request was made to send the water meter to the manufacturer for further testing to determine if the meter malfunctioned.

A motion was made by Mr. Stolper and seconded by Mr. Podell to adjust the water bill to 22 units, the average from past billings did not pass.

Note: two days after the meeting concluded the problem was solved. The contractor turned in a final water meter reading for a meter that did not match Mr. Stapleton's account. The reading was double checked with the water meter reading on the meter received by the third party tester, and then verified by the recorded serial number. The billing was adjusted based on the reading of Mr. Stapleton's actual meter.

Discussion and recommendation for re-apportioning WPS Lots 1 and 2 of CSM 15671 and Lot 3 of CSM 10267.

City Planner, Doug Plowman and Engineer Brian Glaszcz presented the changes to the CSM. The intent of the re-division is to pass along ownership of the road on the northwest side of Lot 2 of CSM 15671 to One City to simplify future maintenance costs of the road. One City Schools would take full ownership of the road so the road would not be split between WPS and One City Schools. Mr. Stolper wanted clarification that the road is not a City street. The road is completely private and not under the City's jurisdiction.

A motion was made by Mr. Turino and seconded by Mr. Speight to approve the re-apportioning of the CSM as presented was carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Turino and seconded by Mr. Speight to adjourn was carried (8:03pm).

Daniel Stephany
Director of Public Works