

City of Aurora, Ohio
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2019

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, August 19, 2019, for the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Committee Chairman John Kudley, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Reva Barner
 Amy Eckard
 Kathi Grandillo
 Harold Hatridge
 George Horvat
 John Kudley, Jr
 James Vaca
 Scott Wolf

Absent: Dennis Kovach

Also Present: Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor
 Dean DePiero, Law Director
 Tim Clymer, Finance Director
 Laura Holman, Director of Parks & Recreation
 Brian Byard, Police Chief
 David Barnes, Fire Chief
 Denise Januska, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building
 Harry Stark, Director of Public Services
 Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council
 April Secura, Deputy Clerk of Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Approval of the July 15, 2019, meeting minutes

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a 6-0-2 roll call vote. Ms. Barner and Mr. Horvat abstained.

AYES: Eckard, Grandillo, Hatridge, Kudley, Vaca, Wolf
NAYS: none
ABSTAIN: Barner, Horvat

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MOTION: To accept the Finance Director's Report

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Star2Star Communications Quote

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the administration has wanted to upgrade the very old phone system for several years. She asked Council for approval to accept a quote Star2Star Communications. She said this will be a savings to the City as the some of the current Windstream services are not needed.

Mr. DePiero stated based upon the technology, the cost savings involved, and the ability to work with LTech it was felt this is the best proposal.

Mr. Hatridge asked if the system covered the whole city. Mr. Barnhouse said that is correct.

Mr. Hatridge asked if there is a backup. Mr. Barnhouse explained how the system works and that each building will be able to operate independently of the other buildings. He said if one building would go offline there are battery backups, all calls could still be routed to other buildings, cell phones and a number of places should the system go down.

Mr. Hatridge asked if room has been allowed for expansion. Mr. Barnhouse said yes, it has the ability to expand to thousands of extensions. Mr. Barnhouse said the city will start with 120.

Mr. Hatridge asked if the city will receive any money for the old equipment. Mr. Barnhouse said no.

Mr. Wolf said this has been a long time coming and he appreciates the work that has been done. He said he assumes there will be low balancing at the data centers as far as the data and voice overs go.

Mr. Barnhouse replied it is all automatic.

Ms. Eckard asked for information on the installation and what will be involved.

Mr. Barnhouse explained the new phones will be installed simultaneously with the old phones. He said the new phones use the computer wires and not the phone wires so that allows for both phones sitting simultaneously. He said the plan is to do one building at a time and the process for complete installation will take approximately 30 days. He said it will be very methodical to make sure everyone has what they need.

Mr. Vaca asked if the phone will go down if the internet does.

Mr. Barnhouse said no, and explain how the systems works. He said the primary internet connection which feeds the system within the Police Department which feeds the main five buildings; there is a secondary internet connection that Windstream is providing now, and there is a dual path LTE module that uses two different cellular providers. He said all of those would have to be knocked offline for the dial tone to be interrupted.

Mr. Hatridge asked what role is LTech. Mr. Barnhouse said LTech is the installers and the point of contact.

Mr. Hatridge asked if there is a problem tying everything together with the security system. Mr. Barnhouse said the phone system is completely separate.

Mayor Womer Benjamin asked what will happen if the electricity goes out.

Mr. Barnhouse said the phones are powered by the network. He said as long as the battery backup that runs the network stays on for a period of time the phones will work, otherwise it will flow over to cellphones. He said the system can be set to reroute calls to other locations.

MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Cleaning of City Buildings Contract

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the City requested proposals from five companies and the only one to respond is the current company under contract with the City. She said she is very satisfied with them and it is her understanding the Police Department is as well and she would like to continue using them.

Mr. Vaca described an instance that does not lead him to believe the cleaning company does a good job. He asked if there is a way to keep an eye on them to make sure they do.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said that instances like those described should be reported to the receptionist or to Ms. Allen.

MOTION: To Council's September 9 agenda

Mr. Hatridge moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Employees Generally

Mayor Womer Benjamin said there are several personnel items on the employees generally. She said there is an increase for the Assistant Fire Chief along with a replacement secretary in public services, replacement service technician in water maintenance, replacement engineering intern, a fire fighter paramedic whose status changed and a sports monitor.

MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Natural Gas Opt-In Program

Mr. Clymer explained the natural gas rate is up for termination at the end of September. He said the City is approaching the time where they need to renew the future rate. He said the rationale for why the City is seeking to approve a formula and not an exact rate has to do with the governmental process and the natural gas market fluctuates on a daily basis. He said he cannot get a rate locked in to bring before Council but he can get companies to offer a formula that they will commit to, based on the way the natural gas market changes from day to day. He said before Council is a formula from Constellation Energy who is the incumbent supplier for the residents; Dominion will still handle the billing and Constellation will be the supplier piece on the bill. He said he is confident to lock in a low rate and it will be lower than what the residents could get on their own.

Mr. Vaca asked if residents will have to opt in.

Mr. Clymer said the residents that are currently in the program will not have to do anything; those that are not will have to opt in.

MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening

Mr. Hatridge moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Appropriation for Turnout Gear

Chief Barnes asked for an additional \$18,000 to purchase turnout gear. He said he budgeted \$15,000 but because of turnover of personnel and new part-time guys he has been buying a lot of turn out gear and the gear for the existing part-time and fulltime guys is getting older. He said the gear has a 10 year life span and he tries to keep within that range for his guys and he is falling behind.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Wolf moved; Mr. Vaca seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Equipment Trade In for New Equipment Purchase

Ms. Holman asked Council for approval to trade in a 2006 John Deere tractor to purchase a new mower and other two cycle items and equipment for \$32,065.71. She said there is an additional credit that can stay on account until it is needed.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Hatridge moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Appropriation for CDL Training

Ms. Holman said the service department and parks and recreation department are working together to provide CDL training. She said there are six people in her department that need the training.

Mr. Horvat asked why there was no one from the service department included on the list.

Mr. Stark said he had budgeted additional dollars last year because he knew the majority of his guys would be going through training for the CDLA and he has it already set up.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a 7-0-1 Roll call vote. Mr. Kudley abstained.

AYES: Barner, Eckard, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Vaca, Wolf

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Kudley

Easement – Campus Square Ltd., LLC

Mr. Stark said the easement is on the east side of SR43, south of Aurora Hudson. It is the last remaining piece.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Approval to Apply for Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

Mr. Stark said several years ago the City went through a massive study on the wastewater treatment plants. He said this year the City entered into a contract with Stantec Consultants to do the Phase I design for the Phase I portion of the central wastewater treatment plant. He said through the process he worked with the Finance Director as to funding options. He said he would like to move forward to apply to the Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Fund for \$9,000,000 for the

entire project estimated cost knowing they can go in at a lower rate depending on what type of capital is put upfront. Mr. Stark listed what Phase I would include.

Ms. Eckard asked for insight on some of the financing issues being considered.

Mr. Clymer said the city is looking at a \$9,000,000 outflow out of the Capital Funds. He said at the point and time where the city will begin to have an outflow will be around 2021/2022. He said there will not be \$9,000,000 in cash in the Sewer Capital Fund there may be a third of that. He said to some extent the city may have to rely on debt financing for the remainder. He said the avenue of going through State agency low interest loans is significantly cheaper than issuing our own debt even though the city is AAA rated and could a favorable rate the State has a better rate. He said he is confident they have sufficient funds to offer up to \$9,000,000 for a loan. He said available funds from the Sewer Capital Fund will be used for a down payment and taking out a loan for the remainder. He said what makes this feasible the City has debt service were paying through next year for an older project and that will free up roughly enough to handle the debt service on this project. He said the city will be paying on the loan 20-30 years.

Mr. Hatridge asked if there is a need for another building.

Mr. Stark said capacity wise the city is fine. He said they hope to free up some additional capacity in the future. He said it is just on the treatment side there are some issues.

Mr. Horvat asked when Mr. Clymer comes back with the funding sources will he also provide how this will be paid back.

Mr. Clymer said as they get further into the project and come back with a precise cost the recommended option will be presented.

Mr. Vaca asked the average house tie in fee. Mr. Stark said he would get back to him with that information.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

ClearSpan Structure Purchase for Salt Dome

Mr. Stark said this is to purchase the kit for \$39,459.90 to build the second salt dome.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Hatridge moved; Mr. Vaca seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Contract for Culvert and Headwall Replacement Design

Mr. Stark asked for approval to enter into a contract with Hjeduk Cox and Associates for the design of the culvert replacement on East Pioneer Road on the east side of Beljon. He said there will be temporary repairs before winter and next year it will be replaced with a concrete box culvert.

Mr. Wolf asked if the culvert will be the same as put in on Chatham. Mr. Stark said that is correct.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Hatridge moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

2019 Salt Dome Construction Bid Award

Mr. Stark said the City received one bid from CR Construction that is a company that specializes in these domes. He said the total cost with the alternate bid is \$66,451.00.

Ms. Barner asked when the dome will be completed. Mr. Stark said by the first of December.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Hatridge moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

2019 Connectivity Improvements Bid Award

Mr. Stark said he would like to award the contract Perrin Asphalt for \$295,525.37. He said three bids were received, Perrin was the lowest and best.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Ms. Eckard moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

2019 Aurora Commons Circle Signal Bid Award

Mr. Stark said he would like to award the contract to Greenwich Electric for \$50,197.20. He said they are the same company working on the Treat Road project. He said there will be a crosswalk and signalization at SR82 where Aurora Commons is located.

Mr. Wolf asked if this is something the Commons requested. (The Mayor's response could not be heard for transcription)

Mr. Vaca asked if the light will flash in the middle of the night.

Mr. Stark said that might be part of the signalization project. He said this is just for a pedestrian crossing at that area.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Ms. Grandillo moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Recommendation for 2020 Self-Funded Insurance

Mr. Aaron Marinelli, Chapman and Chapman, gave a brief explanation of the new stop loss contract and renewals for the next year. He said they negotiated a 16 month over 12 month and a 1.8% decrease is expected.

Mr. Hatridge asked what the stop loss was last year.

Mr. Marinelli said \$85,000 with a \$30,000 aggregating specific.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION: To adjourn**

Mr. Vaca moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

John Kudley, Jr., Chairman

Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council