

The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee

held a meeting on **Wednesday, October 12th, 2022** beginning at 6:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Co-Chair Davis, Simmons, Corbin

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Director Deery, Engineer McKillips, Water Team Leader Jacob, Councilman Cerra

1. Approval of the Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes ~ September 12th, 2022
Motion made by Mrs. Simmons and seconded by Mr. Corbin to approve the ‘said’ meeting minutes.

2. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to apply for a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account [WSRLA] Agreement for lead and galvanized water service lines.

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

(this matter went to Finance Committee on Oct. 11th)

Water Team Leader Jacob said this is the same proposal that they got earlier this year with the same proposal, but the EPA rules have changed. It’s not a 100% forgivable loan. The City qualifies as a disadvantage community for 54 percent Grant with a 46 percent match. They will apply for a million dollars for lead service line replacement and the grant would be for \$540,000 and the City share would be \$460,000 which the EPA would finance at zero percent interest. He spoke with Dir Pileski and they agreed that they would be able to pay that off with the first payment through water funds.

Dir Pileski asked how long is the zero percent loan good for?

Mr. Jacob said 20 years but we could pay it off with the first payment.

Mrs. Davis asked what area are we working on with this replacement project?

Mr. Jacob said it’s in the Washington Ave. area and some of the streets off Middle Ave and other areas where they’re certain there is lead and galvanized service lines.

Mr. Corbin moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for the ‘said’ grant.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into an agreement for lead and galvanized water service line replacement project.

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

(this matter went to Finance Committee on Oct. 11th)

Team Leader Jacob said this is the same they did the other two phases of the project. They will bid this out in November, open bids in December, submit paperwork to EPA in January and we’ll find out after that and the Mayor will sign the contract. If we are denied, we won’t do the project. The matching fund is already in the budget.

Motion made by Mr. Corbin, second by Mrs. Simmons to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into an agreement for the lead and galvanized water service line replacement project.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of applying for and accepting a TLCI Grant for the TLCI Phase 5 Downtown Project.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

(this matter went to Finance Committee on Oct. 11th)

Engineer McKillips said they submitted the application for the TLCI Grant (Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative). They applied for Phase 5 of the Downtown Revitalization. A continuation of the work that has already been completed throughout downtown.

This project will continue replacing the deteriorated Ohio Edison lights with new LED luminaries and decorative poles. It also includes installation of the red stamped concrete crosswalks at the intersection of East Ave & 2nd St. Also will be adding additional benches, bike racks and repairing sidewalks or pavers. Preliminary estimate is \$603,600. Based on NOACA criteria, Elyria is considered an environmental justice area and an urban core community and a disadvantaged community and that means the match for the grant could be waived and therefore they are asking for the full amount, \$603,600 with no match. The grant is limited, if we get only partial funding for Phase 5, we will likely split that Phase into 2 parts and if need be she'll come back to committee. At this point they are requesting the grant with no match.

Engineer McKillips said the last grant application we asked for \$250,000 and we got \$190,000.

Mr. Corbin moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for the 'said' grant with no City match.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of authorizing the installation of traffic delineators in order to meet the requirements of a 'Quiet Zone'.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

Engineer McKillips said the City has been asked to participate in the establishment of a Quiet Zone. First was specifically West Ridge Road. A quiet zone is an area along RR Tracks where the trains do not blow their horns. The cities which have quiet zones are; N. Ridgeville, Vermillion, Amherst, Amherst Township, Brownhelm Township and Elyria does not, yet. This began with some residents that spearheaded the installation of quiet zones. The Amherst Township area comes over to Elyria's area at West Ridge at grade train crossing. As a city we decided that it's something we should look into with the assistance of a consultant named Timothy Dietrich from 'Quiet Zone Consultant'. He's helped the City review the crossings to determine whether or not they would fit the requirements needed to make it a quiet zone.

Engineer McKillips said that thru a partnership with Amherst, Amherst Township, Brownhelm. It includes Elyria Township because it's on the south side of West Ridge Road and Elyria is on the north side. It's a county road that involves the Lorain County Engineer's Office. So we can look into extending the quiet zone into Elyria. Once we have one crossing, we can look at Murray Ridge and then we can look at Olive Street and Abbe Road. To meet the schedule of the committee that's working on Amherst and Amherst Township we've moved ahead and installed 'quick curb delineators' similar to what we have on East Broad Street near Rt 57. They've also been installed on West Ridge.

Train horns sounds are loud and up to 110 decibels and sometimes louder. Extending that quiet zone throughout the City to Abbe Road would be a benefit to the City residents.

What she is asking for tonight is looking for an establishment of a quiet zone throughout the City. West Ridge will be part of it with Amherst Township and city of Amherst. The rest will be their own quiet zones in partnership with Elyria Township.

Once each community establishes a quiet zone as part of a package that ends up going to The Federal Railroad Administration.

It will be a document that states the Elyria has established a quiet zone. Once it's approved by the Fed government then we can place signs at each crossings, which will say 'No Train Horns'. They will be unbagged and the RR will have the requirement of installing signs along their tracks so they know they don't have to blow their horns as they go through the City.

Law Dir Deery asked if there is anything that Engineering requires because there is nothing that her office has found as far as legislation needed in order to make this happen.

Engineer McKillips said that the consultant will prepare a letter that will need to be signed by the Public Authority stating that all the work was performed in order to meet the requirements of establishing a quiet zone.

Dir Deery said the money is already in the budget to make these changes and some of them are already in process. Once the City gets everything complete as far as signage, etc then in accordance with what the consultant is saying then there's going to need to be some documentation. Basically what the Engineer is asking for this evening is to let the committee know where we're at with this and there's nothing that the committee needs to do at this time.

Chair Davis asked if at these crossings going into the quiet zone, will the gates stay in place? It's just going to be a sign that you won't hear a train coming?

Engineer McKillips said yes, that along with 100 feet of delineators, poles that stick up out of the pavement, down the center line for 100 feet from the gate back. The premise is that cars that are waiting at the gate will not be able to get into the oncoming traffic lane to go around the gate. They are currently installed on West Ridge right now.

Mr. Corbin asked if there is certain hours for the quiet zone?

Engineer McKillips said it's 24/7.

Mr. Corbin asked if the City has talked to the other communities? The Ohio Revised Code stated that trains cannot block an intersection for more than 5 minutes. Is there a penalty if they don't abide by the rules of the quiet zone?

Engineer McKillips said she didn't believe there is a penalty. As the train operator under regular circumstances, they should be blowing their horns. If there is an emergency, if there was a vehicle on the tracks, then of course they would have to blow their horns. All the City is doing is establishing a quiet zone. There is no legal ramifications at this time.

Chair Davis said we don't need a committee report, this is already in process.

Dir Deery asked if the consultant has any kind of example or template letter that could be forwarded to her office, that would be helpful.

6. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with DLZ, Inc. for Engineering Svcs for the Windward Siphon Improvement Project.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

Engineer McKillips said they will be working with Waste Water and are looking to enter into a contract with DLZ for design work for the Windward Siphon Improvement Project. This siphon is on the waste water infrastructure system. It's a sewer that has a belly in it. It starts on Windward Drive and there's a ravine to the west, the siphon goes under the ravine and over to Gulf Rd. There is also a small pump station that pumps local sewage thru the siphon. What they're doing with this is re-designing, getting alternatives. The siphon is old and it needs to be replaced or something else needs to be done. The siphon has scaling inside the pipe which decreasing the capacity of it. They've had it cleaned out. It's a matter of time where more will need to be done. They want to have DLZ on contract and they plan to start next year. They have looked at getting a loan through the State Revolving Loan Program.

Chair Davis asked if they will move the location? Is that an option?

Eng McKillips said they will not repair what's existing, they will either replace it or add another. They will be installing something, they aren't sure if it will be in the exact area. That is what the consultant will be looking at. They've also discussed an aerial sewer, which is an option.

As the sewer has a belly in it, is it possible to actually make it gravity fed which wouldn't require such a drastic elevation change. Those are things the consultant will consider.

Mr. Corbin moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with DLZ, INC. for 'said' services.
MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of the 2023 Street Resurfacing. [Discussion Only].

Referred By: Chair Mitchell

Chair Davis said this is only for discussion this evening. She has the list of streets that were looked at for this years resurfacing projects. She said it always seems like it's just not enough. Each ward gets to choose 2 or 3 streets and thank goodness for Issue 6 that we are able to do more than prior to Issue 6. Ward 7 has many streets. Now is the time to start looking the streets in your wards. The Engineer's Dept can start making adjustments on the severity of the condition of the streets. If it was a 2 before, it could be a 1 by now.

Mr. Cerra said he has a pretty good handle on some of the streets in his ward that should be rated a 1 versus a 2 or 3.

Engineer McKillips wanted to add to Mr. Cerra's comment. She said she would like to invite council members to ride along with some of the Engineer's Staff members. They could view streets in their wards or elsewhere to get the Engineer's view and the council can give there recommendations. She was thinking by adding another level of review that with this process maybe it would help. It will help to get estimates and designs started as soon as they can as long as the know which streets they know the council members want to get done. And by starting this process sooner, we'll have a head start.

Mrs. Simmons asked when they are available.

Engineer McKillips said they can schedule whenever.

Chair Davis welcomes it. It will help when they pick the streets. Mrs. Davis said she had a note from Chair Mitchell and she is asking to discuss Murray Ridge from Lowell Street to Russia Road. That area involves the township and the county.

Engineer McKillips said that will take some coordination and the condition of that section of roads is getting rough.

Chair Davis asked for a motion to adjourn The Utilities Safety & Environment Committee:

Mr. Corbin moved, seconded by Mrs. Simmons to Adjourn the Meeting at 6:35 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant
/CMR