

The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee

held a meeting on **Wednesday, May 8th, 2024** at 6:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Utilities: Chair Mitchell, Oswald, Armstrong, Stewart

Others: Absent: Davis (Excused)

Administration and Department Heads Present: Safety Service Dir Pyanowski, Law Dir Breunig, Police Chief Pelko, Water Team Leader Jacob

1. Approval of April 17th, 2024 Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Oswald and second by Mr. Armstrong to approve these minutes.

2. The matter of Elyria Codified Ordinance 331.45, [texting while driving], to be re-codified as a main offense instead of a secondary offense.

Referred By: Police Chief Pelko

Chief Pelko said they would like to amend this ordinance to read as the Ohio Revised Code ORC which makes it a primary offense and officers can stop a person who is violating this law as a primary offense and can be cited and fined.

Chair Mitchell said the fine is \$150 and will that change?

Chief said the fine will stay the same.

Chief Pelko clarified that as of now, a person texting would not be pulled over as a texting offense, it would have to be for speeding or something else.

Mr. Oswald asked if they are allowed to look on someone's phone to see if they were texting at that time?

Chief said that would require a search warrant. But the law reads that they cannot have a phone in their hand unless stopped at a stop light or pulled off the road.

Motion made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize an ordinance to amend ECO 331.45 texting while driving to make it primary offence and to mirror the ORC [state law]. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of a Nature Works Grant Application thru Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, if awarded, funds will be used for the Pocket Park Project.

Referred By: Parks Dir Reardon

Dir Pyanowski said this is to apply for the Nature Works Grant for the Pocket Park.

The Pocket Park is near the South Branch of the Library. These funds, if awarded will be used for the entryway of the park. Historically the grant has been for about \$40,000. There is a 25% match, which would be around \$10,000, which is already appropriated. Nature Works is a ground cover, not concrete but like impressed stones. It would be used in the entry way underneath the swings.

Chair Mitchell asked if they will be able to use the Pocket Park this summer?
Dir Pyanowski said that is the goal. This is a reimbursement grant and we could mover forward and not delay out progress, we could pay for it and get reimbursed if we get awarded. He said the drawings of the park are interesting and he will ask Dir Reardon if she can share those drawings with council.

Motion made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize an ordinance to apply for and accept if offered, the ‘said’ and use those funds for the development of the West Ave Pocket Park, Emergency clause requested.
MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of the purchase of materials for updating the Security Systems at the Water Pumping Plant, Water Towers and Pump Stations.

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

Water Team Leader Jacob said they would like to update the security system at the water treatment plant, the five water towers and two pump stations. The existing system is 16-17 years old and cameras are not working. This new system was designed by the City IT Dept. and everything will be done in house by the IT Dept and the water plant maintenance and water plant electricians. The majority of the material will be purchased from CDWG under State contract and won’t exceed \$120,000. The rest of the material is piece milled through different vendors. The total cost of the entire project should be under \$200,000 and those funds have been appropriated in the 2024 budget.

Dir Breunig asked for clarification on the purchasing and that a majority is through the state list. What is the committee authorizing this evening?

Mr. Jacob said the State Purchasing List and the rest of the parts will be through different vendors; security doors, cables, etc. and will be under the limit so therefore it won’t have to go back for an ordinance.

Motion made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize an ordinance to authorize the purchase of materials for updating the ‘said’ security systems. Emergency clause requested.
MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Oswald moved to adjourn the Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee Meeting and that motion was seconded by Mr. Armstrong at 6:15 P.M.
MOTION CARRIES

The next Utilities Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024 at 6:00

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