

SERVICE-SAFETY COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman John Kevern. Committee members present were John Kevern, Rick Rettig and Barry VanHoozen. Also present was Service Director Jon Eckel.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Phil Caron, Hickory Street, was present to discuss several concerns including the Columbia Gas project being done in town. Mr. Caron said he feels that the restoration of disturbed areas was not done as well as Columbia Gas said it would be. Mr. Caron requested that a fall brush pick-up be added because you can't tell what is dead on trees and bushes in the spring. He added that the articles regarding the leaf and brush pick-ups are negative and the schedule is not user-friendly. Mr. Eckel explained that he does not have the resources to do a fall and spring brush pick-up, and he explained why they no longer do the zone scheduling for leaves and brush. Mr. Caron also requested that the pool stay open on weekends through Labor Day. Mr. Rettig said that the Recreation Committee is discussing options with the Y, but there are some budgetary and personnel constraints.

Ann Pilkington, E. Sixth Street, was present to discuss her concerns about street trees being pruned and also about leaves going down the storm sewers. Mr. Eckel said that he will check the street tree inventory and see how Ms. Pilkington's trees are rated and will have someone check to see if they need to be pruned.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR DOWNTOWN RESTROOM PROJECT

Mr. Eckel said that the Administration previously asked City Council for permission to purchase a kit for the proposed Second Street public restroom from Romtec. However, they have been unable to find a contractor interested in building the kit. So they put it back out to bid and received three bids. The lowest and best bid received was from Utopia Construction at \$176,000. Mr. Eckel said that he and Brody Walters went to Springfield Township to see a recreation building with storage and restrooms that was built by the low bidder. He said that they were very impressed with the quality of construction. The project falls within the budgeted amount and the Departments of Public Service and Public Utilities are going to work together to get utilities to the project. Mr. Rettig asked if any other reviews are necessary. Mr. Walters stated that the building that was shown to the Historic Landmarks Commission is the same as what will be built, it just won't be a kit and the special approval use is still going through the approval process.

The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the contract with Utopia Construction for \$176,000 for the proposed downtown restrooms.

POLICE DIVISION 2016 BUDGET UPDATE

Chief Paez was present to go over a few changes to the proposed 2016 budget for the Police Division. He said that the budgeted amount for the in-car video system is being reduced by \$40,000 to \$75,000 due to obtaining a reduced price on some of the video equipment being installed in the police division this year. 43 total cameras were installed at the police division and some of the equipment will be used with the in-car system also. Chief Paez said that new capacitors for the building power supply were installed in 2015 so there was no maintenance agreement needed this year. However, they will need one for 2016 so that will be an additional \$4,500. Also since the budget was prepared, the company for the scheduling software said that there will be a major upgrade so the maintenance contract which is normally \$600 will be \$1,250 next year. Chief Paez said that they will also need to increase the cost for patrol vehicles from \$65,000 to \$70,000 because the state bid contract expired and the price for the vehicles has gone up.

REPLACEMENT OF TWO POLICE VEHICLES

Chief Paez requested permission to purchase two police vehicles from Taylor Chevrolet at a cost of \$71,906. He said that he would like to get a two wheel drive Tahoe for \$34,453 and a four wheel drive Tahoe for \$37,453. Chief Paez explained the rationale for purchasing the Tahoes even though they aren't the cheapest option. He explained that while some departments use their vehicles for one shift per day, these vehicles are used for three shifts. He added that the four wheel drive vehicle will be the second in their fleet and these are assigned to an officer that will not use it every shift like the DARE officer. He said that the four wheel drive is important to have available especially considering the last two winters we have experienced. He said that in the past, they replaced vehicles every three years but with the Tahoes they are looking at replacing them every five years. Mr. VanHoozen asked if they could mix and match the fleet. Chief Paez said that for the officers' safety and the public's safety, he thinks it is best to keep the fleet consistent. He said that the police vehicles are repurposed after they are done with them. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of this purchase.

PUBLIC SERVICE 2016 BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Committee reviewed items in the proposed 2016 budget for public service including resurfacing streets, pavement marking, traffic signal repair, street sign retro reflectivity, road salt, and sidewalks. Mr. Eckel explained initiatives that they are undertaking to make improvements to street resurfacing and he said that through the use of different technologies they were able to pave 25% more streets this year. He said that all traffic lights are now on battery back-up, and he explained changes that will be made in treating the roads for inclement weather including the purchase of a brine machine. He said that brine reacts 50% faster than road salt in lower temperatures. The Committee also had a brief discussion about the sidewalk program and how that has been administered the last several years.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Eckel stated that a request for a liquor permit was received regarding Zinful LLC at 218 Louisiana Avenue. Chief Paez has no issues with the request, so the Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend not having a hearing regarding this request.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kevern, Chairman
Service-Safety Committee

Next regular meeting: Monday, November 23, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.