

SERVICE COMMITTEE

JULY 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Becky Williams. Committee members present were Rick Rettig, Barry VanHoozen and Becky Williams. Also present was City Administrator Bridgette Kabat.

DIVERGENT DIAMOND IRRIGATION

Brody Walters requested approval of a contract with Waterville Irrigation not to exceed \$50,000 to provide labor for the installation of the irrigation components for the Divergent Diamond. The irrigation components will be purchased by the City directly from the supplier to avoid any markup. He explained that the reason for the not to exceed contract is that after bids were solicited, ODOT made a few changes to the layout of the irrigation system. ODOT will oversee the landscape installation, but we are responsible for the irrigation. Ms. Kabat said there were dollars budgeted in 2016 and 2017 to cover the costs. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the contract.

UPDATE ON RESURFACING/PATCHING PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

Ms. Williams said that she was contacted by some residents on Catawba Drive about road repairs and she asked the status of the repairs. Ms. Kabat explained that resurfacing and patching are done separately. She said that for the resurfacing program, the contractor has completed the concrete work and the base layer is down and they anticipate completing the next layer by the end of the week. Ms. Kabat said that patching is done by City employees, weather permitting. She said that on Catawba there was some isolated cracking and some portions were done but it could not all be completed at the same time because the asphalt company's truck was in the way. She said it is her understanding that it has all been completed.

DISCUSSION REGARDING DECISION MAKING PROCESS REGARDING MAINTAINING AND MODIFYING ROADWAYS WITHIN THE CITY

Ms. Williams said that on the Commodore Building side of Louisiana Avenue parking was removed, but some people are still parking there. Ms. Kabat said she will pass that along to the Police Division. Ms. Williams said that the left turn lane from Louisiana onto westbound Indiana was extended and a right turn lane from southbound Louisiana to westbound Indiana was added. She asked about the process for those types of modifications. Ms. Kabat said that the process varies, but the Administration was discussing CMAQ grants and we are currently doing a traffic study to see what the intersection of Louisiana and Indiana will look like in twenty years. During that discussion, and as part of the pavement marking program, it was decided to make these changes. Ms. Kabat explained that the left turn lane from Roachton to SR25 was also extended. That intersection was awarded a CMAQ grant for 2021. Ms. Williams noted that the sign on Louisiana Avenue does not reflect the right turn lane. Mr. Rettig asked about the Administration's feelings about the current status of the roadways. Ms. Kabat stated that based upon conversations with Mr. Eckel and Mr. Dariano, with the current level of funding we're ahead of the game, but want to keep it up. She said they are looking at consolidating lengths of roadways' ratings because costs are increased for mobilizing and demobilizing during the resurfacing work.

DISCUSSION REGARDING SERVICES PROVIDED TO NON-CITY ORGANIZATIONS AND PROPERTIES

Ms. Williams asked how it is decided what services will be provided to non-city organizations and properties. Ms. Kabat distributed a list of these services including sanitation collection, providing barriers, and snow-plowing. She explained that some of them are good community things to do and others are done because it is not safe for an individual to do like ditch mowing. She said that these services have minimal impact on the City budget. Conversely, a couple of years ago the City was providing police service that was costing tens of thousands of dollars a year. Now if an event requires police service, they have to pay for it. Mr. Rettig asked if that includes fire service also. Ms. Kabat said that she will have to look at it. She explained that service is normally provided by on duty personnel or volunteers. Ms. Williams asked if the Convention and Visitors Bureau is a separate entity and Ms. Kabat said it is. Mr. VanHoozen asked if Fort Meigs pays for sanitation pick-up after the fireworks. Ms. Kabat said that she is not sure, but normally we will pick-up garbage after events if it is gathered. Ms. Williams asked if the philosophy is to work our way out of doing this. Ms. Kabat said not if it is manageable and we can rationalize it with little to no impact on City services. She added that the City has been very generous with staff time to help with community events.

UPDATE TO 660.14 WEEDS/GRASS

The Committee was provided with proposed language to modify Section 660.14 to include natural landscapes. Ms. Williams asked if this will affect ditch banks. Judy Hagen, Litter Control Coordinator, said that if they see invasive species in a ditch it would apply. She said that this would allow natural plantings to not be in conflict with the Code regarding mowing. It will help people who want natural landscapes for habitats like monarchs by distinguishing between grass and natural landscape. Ms. Williams asked if they are finding other properties like the one by Fort Meigs. Ms. Hagen said not really; this gives people opportunities for new and creative plantings. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the changes to Section 660.14.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Williams asked the last time the Street Tree inventory was updated. Ms. Hagen said it was in 2010 or 2012. Mr. VanHoozen asked why it isn't done on an ongoing basis. Ms. Hagen explained that an arborist would have to rate the trees, but otherwise the inventory is kept on an ongoing basis.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Williams, Chairperson
Service Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.