PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Zoom Webinar
January 24, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM.

Members Present: Chair Bryson, Ms. Triem, Ms. Woll, and Mr. Smith. Mayor Weldon was also in attendance.

Staff Members Present: Katie Koester, John Bohan, Janet Sanbei, Jeanne Rynne, Rich Ross, Di Cathcart.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 20, 2021 – Regular Meeting

No comments, minutes approved.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Bryson removed Public Participation from the agenda.

IV. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. BRH Behavioral Health Facility $4M Appropriation Request

Ms. Koester stated the new BRH Behavioral Health Facility is request an additional appropriation of $4.0 million for the BRH internal reserves in order to complete this facility. She reminded the Committee that in March 2021 the hospital requested additional funding and scope for the new facility to accommodate an additional floor. This was due to the inability to purchase adjacent land, and the need for more space. Increased construction costs have also escalated over this timeframe bringing the price of the additional construction to the current request.

Ms. Triem moved a request for the Committee to forward the appropriation request of $4.0 million to be funded from BRH reserves to the full Assembly for approval, and asked for unanimous consent.

No objection. Motion passed.

B. BRH Emergency Department Addition and Renovation Recommendation for Appropriation Request

Ms. Koester explained the request is for $325,000 from BRH internal reserves to complete the design of this project. BRH has bonds of $12 million to construct the project. Earlier in the year BRH asked the Assembly to appropriate $425,000 from the BRH internal reserves to begin design.

Ms. Woll moved the Public Works and Facilities Committee forward the appropriation request of $325,000 to the full Assembly for approval, and asked for unanimous consent.

No objection. Motion passed.

C. Streets CIPs Transfers and Closeouts

Ms. Koester explained the department will occasionally go through completed projects and move that funding to projects that are lacking enough funds. She stated the memo includes projects which are complete and have a fund balance that the Department would like to move to other projects which are low on funds.

Discussion included an explanation as to how a project may have a fund balance when the project is complete.

Mr. Bohan explained it is often difficult to estimate the budget of a project exactly. The Department works through the project details as carefully as possible leaning toward the high side of a project. There are times when an estimate may be lower than actual costs, based on extenuating circumstances that arise during construction.

Mr. Smith motioned the Committee forward the attached Streets CIP transfers and closeouts, totaling $1.4 million be forwarded to the full Assembly for approval and asked for unanimous consent.

No objections. Motion passed.

D. Wastewater CIPs Transfer and Closeout

Ms. Koester gave a brief explanation stating the City has been working with AKDOT to move the Gruening Park Pump Station and Generator Shed along Glacier Hwy. to a property AKDOT purchased for this purpose. She explained initially the City thought funding for this project would come through an ADEC loan. The City would like to avoid using this loan for the project. In order to do this, the City would like to close a few projects and transfer those funds to the Gruening Park Pump Station project.

Mr. Smith moved the Committee forward the Wastewater CIP transfer and Closeout, totaling $496,725 to the full assembly for approval and asked for unanimous consent.

No objections, motion passed.

E. Hospital Water and Sewer Improvements Transfer

Ms. Koester stated at the time the Hospital decided to expand the Behavioral Health Facility, this change required a wider foundation due to the additional floor. The wider foundation required rerouting the water and wastewater piping. Because of this rerouting, it was determined by the Water and Wastewater Division the water and sewer mains need to be replaced. In September there was a request to transfer $200,000 in water funds to replace the water main. Ms. Koester then referred further explanation of the request to Mr. Bohan for explanation.

Mr. Bohan stated the request for $120,000 from the Water Fund to complete replacement of the water main. The original $200,000 was an initial amount to get the work underway. This was right at the beginning of cost and materials escalations, which has required the additional funding. This is a "best guess" for completing this portion of the work. The remainder of the funding $600,000 is what is required to complete the sewer main work on the hospital campus. It just makes the best sense to do it at the same time the water is being replaced.

Ms. Woll moved the Public Works & Facilities Committee forward to the full Assembly for approval the transfer and closeout totaling $720,000 contained in this memo and asked for unanimous consent.

No objection. Motion passed.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Bryson asked to add Item D., Future Grant Possibilities.

A. Electric Bus Update

Ms. Koester explained the current electric bus is not giving the City the expected distance anticipated. The Department is looking at adding in-route charging stations to extend the bus's distance during use.

Mr. Smith thanked Staff for being willing to work on this new technology and being willing to use it.

Other discussion included whether staff was aware of temperature affecting the distance use of the buses. The response came back that battery efficiency definitely goes down as the temperature drops.

B. New City Hall Site Selection Update

Ms. Koester presented the top four sites determined by public participation in the October 2021 survey (stating pros and cons of each location). Additional analysis was completed on the sites in order give the Assembly enough information to make a final site selection. She provided the Committee with the next steps required to keep the project on track to choose a preferred alternative.

The Committee made a few comments regarding parking and asked general questions related to the matrix and its use for decision making. Statements about being sure the Assembly is aware of the comments made at the New City Hall meeting.

Ms. Koester stated the comments from the public will be forwarded to the Assembly.

C. Draft FY2023 CIP Resolution

Ms. Koester indicated the Draft CIP list is a list of "Need to take care of what we have list," which is similar to what has been presented in the past.

Mr. Bohan explained the CIP List will be presented to the Planning Commission at the second meeting in February. He will include this as part of the schedule for the next meeting.

Discussion included whether the current CIP includes the additional costs at the pool and the Centennial Hall Upgrades which were put on hold.

Ms. Koester indicated there is no additional funding for the Pool in this CIP. She stated the Department is redoing the scope of the project to include only the most important issues, which at this time is the boiler system. There is $2.8 M of funding for Centennial Hall in this CIP. This reflects what was approve by the voters 4.5 years ago. What the funding is for, is something the Assembly will decide.

D. Update on Future Grant Opportunities

Ms. Koester stated Staff are working on a grant strategy for applying for some of the opportunities. These opportunities are tremendous. She stated the Legislative priorities is very important toward grant opportunities.

Discussion included the opportunity for hiring a grant writer, whether as a staff member or an outside consultant.

VI. UPDATE on PWFC ACTION ITEMS to ADVANCE 2021 ASSEMBLY GOALS

A. 2022 Assembly Goal Update

Ms. Koester gave a brief explanation of the table included in the packet. She indicated the list is made up of projects which had action to them already and have work still to come, and new projects the Assembly indicated are important goals for them.

Discussion included what should be spent to keep facilities upgraded and what is actually being spent. Also, does staff feel the City has sufficient information in order to move forward with the use of electric vehicles? The emissions tool will help the Assembly plan better for the future. Breaking down the Assembly goals has been useful in helping them keep their goals moving forward.

Ms. Koester stated JCOS has been asking the Assembly to work toward an analysis of Greenhouse gasses in the Juneau area. The need is great, but steps forward in these goals will move the community in the right direction.

VII. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

A. December 17, 2021 to January 19, 2022

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

A. Next Regular Meeting will be February 14, 2022 – 12:10 PM

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.