PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Zoom Webinar
September 20, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM.

Members Present: Ms. Hale, Ms. Hughes-Skandijs and Paul Voelckers, Planning Commission Liaison. Assembly Member Loren Jones was also in attendance.

Staff Members Present: Katie Koester, Denise Koch, Dan Bleidorn, George Schaaf, Robert Barr, Greg Smith, John Bohan, Janet Sanbei, Caleb Comas, Jeanne Rynne, Alexandra Pierce, Erich Schaal, Lori Sowa, Nate Abbott, and Rorie Watt.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 30, 2021 – Regular Meeting

No objection, minutes passed.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. $200,000 Transfer for Hospital Water Main Replacement

Ms. Koester explained the purpose of this item on the agenda. She stated that because the BRH Behavioral Health Facility was made larger with the added third floor, the foundation will also be larger. This requires us to open the ground more which will be close to the water main for both the BRH campus and as a secondary backup main from the Salmon Creek filter plant to Lemon Creek. Staff feels this is a good time to do replacement work while the ground is open and so close to the main.

Ms. Hughes-Skandjis moved the Public Works and Facilities Committee forward the request to Transfer $200,000 from Douglas Highway Water System CIP W75-061 to the Salmon Creek Water Filter Plant Bartlett Regional Connection Improvement CIP R72-141 asked for unanimous consent.

No objection, motion passed.

B. $150,000 Transfer to Capital Avenue Reconstruction for Contaminated Soil Disposal

Ms. Koester explained the contaminated soils from Capital Avenue have extremely high levels of lead and mercury. Which requires the need to ship to soil out of state for cleaning. This requires additional funds to mitigate the soil cleanup.

Ms. Hale commented thanked staff for looking carefully at where the funding would come from in order to take care of this issue. She understands Area Wide Drainage is not the ideal fund for this transfer, but understands the need to fund this work.

Mr. Jones stated Capitol Avenue has many issues concerning ownership of the land. It has gone through legal means, but he asked if it was possible to ask AEL&P to help cover the costs of cleaning this soil.

Staff indicated the soil needs to be removed as soon as possible. The questions regarding who is responsible will be asked going forward. The investigation is going forward. It is also known the principle of contaminated soil is that whoever created the contamination owns the problem…even if they sell the property. Once the soil is pulled from the ground, it cannot be put back. This means we need to take care of the soil immediately to get it out of the way while we work on other issues.

Ms. Hughes-Skandjis moved the Committee forward to the Assembly for approval of the transfer of $150,000 from Areawide Drainage CIP (CIP72-136) to the Capital Avenue Reconstruction CIP and asked for unanimous consent.

No objection, motion passed.

C. Proposed Passenger Fee Projects

Ms. Koester gave a brief explanation of the memo included in the packet, stating the $12M in ARPA funding is to assist communities who have been affected by the loss of cruise ship passengers over the past 2 seasons. This is a proposal for allocation of those funds. She then turned further information and explanation over to Manager Watt for further discussion.

Mr. Watt recommended the Committee forward the ordinance to the Finance Committee on September 29, 2021, and to the Special Meeting on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, beforehand for introduction, so the transfer can go to public hearing more quickly and get the funds into the community this winter. These funds are less restrictive than regular Passenger Fee funds. He would like to be sure the City use the funds in the most useful way in conjunction with the best use of Marine Passenger Fees.

Additional discussion ensued.

Ms. Hughes-Skandjis moved the Committee move to introduce an ordinance at the next Special Assembly Meeting on September 29, 2021, and forward that ordinance the ordinance and proposal to the Finance Committee on September 29, 2021, as well.

No objection, motion passed.

D. Green House Gas Date Update and Renewable Energy Pathway Model

Ms. Koester gave a brief explanation of the memo included in the packet, explaining this was a request from the JCOS committee.

Ms. Hale asked Steve Behnke, JCOS Committee member to give a brief explanation on how this model can assist the City with meeting the Assembly goal for reducing greenhouse gases.

Mr. Behnke stated the study will be a plan and a tool for multiple purposes. He stated that currently through the Biden Administration there are existing and potential opportunities for Federal Funding. This study would be a very good tool for helping the City be ready for applying for these funding opportunities as they become available. The study could also be used by other Juneau businesses to help them apply for similar funding. He feels a consultant will be the best method for obtaining the model.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs moved the Committee forward a recommendation to the Full Assembly to fund a contract up to $40,000 to develop this model.

No objection, motion passed.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Streets & Utility Projects Delayed by Material Supply Issues

Ms. Koester explained this is more of a situational awareness issue, but she felt it was important to bring it to the attention of the Committee. She informed them that several projects have been slowed or put on hold for the time being because of items being delayed due to the COVID19 pandemic and its impacts on manufacturers and shipping of goods and supplies.

The Committee thanked her for the information, stating some of them have also been impacted in their businesses in the same manner.

B. Draft Engineering and Public Works Annual Sustainability Report

Ms. Koester gave a brief explanation on the draft of the report and its purpose. She stated the report is a first attempt to try and answer some questions from the public and Assembly Members on how the City is going about trying to meet their sustainability goals. She stated there are so many factors involved in trying to come up with a measurable model. This is the reason the report is a "draft". She asked the Committee to provide feedback on this report so she can refine the information they would like to see. She would like to have a final report available by the end of October.

Committee members thanked her for the time Staff has put into getting this information together. They look forward to the final report, which can then be used to help direct Staff in changing direction in order to meet the sustainability goal set by the Assembly.

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

A. Goal Update Table

Ms. Koester updated the Committee on what the Engineering &Public Works Department has been working on since the last meeting.

VII. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

A. August 26, 2021 to September 15, 2021

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

A. Next Regular Meeting will be November 1, 2021 – 12:00 Noon

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM.