PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – August 29, 2016
12:00 – 1:00 PM – City Hall Assembly Chambers
MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ms. Gladziszewski (Chair), Ms. Becker, Mr. Jones, Ms. Bursell

Staff Present: Roger Healy, Greg Smith, Tina Brown, John Bohan, Michele Elfers, Skye Stekoll, Rich Ritter, Rob Steedle

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes for August 15, 2016, approved.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

V. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. BRH Rotary Uninterruptible Power System (UPS) Appropriation

Mr. Healy briefly discussed the request from Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) to appropriate $1.2M from the FY17 BRH operational budget for the purposes of creating a new capital project titled, "Rotary Uninterruptible Power System." This would fund the design and installation of a Rotary Uninterruptible Power System. Its purpose is to provide a controlled transition of electrical power from the grid to the hospital backup generators when an outage occurs. Ms. Bursell requested more information before this goes to the Assembly.

Ms. Gladziszewski requested to know the amount of funds that exist in the FY17 BRH operational reserve budget. Ms. Gladziszewski mentioned that she had attended a BRH meeting where hospital staff discussed a recent outage and said everything had gone fine.

Ms. Bursell then moved to forward the appropriation request with the expectation that further information would be provided.

No objections. Motion passed.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Meander Way Erosion

Mr. Healy spoke on the recent design concept report completed by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) for the Mendenhall River accelerated channel incision and neighborhood concerns, particularly homes along Meander Way. The Mendenhall River is the property of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), the protection of private landowner's land from natural erosion is not the City's responsibility, nor the State of Alaska's. There are federal programs available to fund and/or construct bank protection projects. A local match is required. Our emergency program coordinator Tom Mattice has been discussing the different programs available to the concerned homeowners. One is through the United States Corps of Engineers and the other is through the NRCS. The NRCS program would be more advantageous to the neighbors. The NRCS will contribute 75% of construction costs to the project, leaving 25% of pre-construction activities, permitting, land rights, etc. to be funded by others. Early estimates of cost distribution to the eight homeowners amount to roughly $125,000 per property. There are concerns that any alterations to upstream properties could cause potential problems to the downstream properties. In regards to this the NRCS requires a local sponsor, specifically the local government agency (CBJ) to cover the 25% funding and address the pre-construction activity. At this time, CBJ is not providing any funding and has formulated a position as outlined in the attached memo. Staff has decided the best way to handle this is to establish a Local Improvement District (LID). As part of the NRCS funding, CBJ is required to provide maintenance and operational liability tasks, there is a need to actively participate and monitor both the design and the construction. The conclusion is that we potentially have an LID proposed and move forward through the PWFC and then to the Assembly to establish this project. The project scope may expand depending on NRCS recommendations for design.

Ms. Gladziszewski and Mr. Jones had funding questions, which Mr. Healy explained.

Mr. Jones questioned if there were other areas of concern.

Mr. Healy stated that he had recently inspected this area and referred to it as natural erosion. It will eventually form a back water lake. The project design proposes riprap to prevent the erosion during construction. The NRCS only deals with actively damaged properties.

Ms. Gladziszewski expressed her concern that the City's involvement with this type of agreement could possibly create a chain reaction, fixing one property and in return causing damage to another.

Discussion ensued.

B. West Douglas Road Update

Mr. Bohan informed the committee that the West Douglas Pioneer Road project is out for bid. The bids are due on September 21st with the intention of bringing it to the Assembly for award on September 26th. All permits are in place and Engineering staff are planning to move this project forward.

C. Willoughby Parking Study

Ms. Elfers gave an update on the Willoughby District parking in regard to parking issues downtown. Ms. Elfers wanted to remind the public of the parking study that has been previously provided for the Willoughby District and discuss current projects that will be coming up. One project of note is the Willoughby Arts Complex which is in design, but it looks like there will be parking removed from this area, so there will be new parking needs. In addition, the proposed Juneau Ocean Center just across Egan could also have impacts on parking. A map shows the potential parking area that could be available in the future. The Willoughby District parking plan recommendations were for more of a parking structure. The City received a grant from the State for 1.5 Million which is in a CIP, there is about 1.4 Million remaining. The rest of the portion of funds was used for the parking study.

Mr. Jones asked about potential new streets in the Willoughby location.

Ms. Elfers stated that there is one between Centennial Hall and Bullwinkle's building running from Whittier to Willoughby and possibly one that could connect from Whittier Street behind IGA. Ms. Elfers continued, saying the next step is to bring some type of a proposal to the PWFC. There are a variety of parking issues and the best solution would be some type of partnership that meets all of the needs.

Mr. Healy mentioned that the 1.4 Million will not complete this project, it is just seed money.

D. RecycleWorks Program Update

Ms. Elfers spoke on the status of the Solid Waste Action Plan which CBJ started about a year and a half ago. Ms. Elfers said that staff had set up a variety of ideas that were brought to the PWFC, as well as the Juneau Commission on Sustainability. The goal of this was to keep as much material out of the landfill for beneficial reuse, whether that is through recycling or safe disposal through our household hazard waste program. Ms. Elfers said that the program has been renamed to RecycleWorks. There is a new logo and are trying to rebrand ourselves and get the program out in the public eye a little more. Staff just launched the new website; it's called Juneaurecycling.com, which links to the City Public Works webpage. The five drop boxes have arrived and we are just waiting for the new labels to be finished then we will have them placed out in the community. The intent is to make it more convenient and easier access for residents to recycle. We are still working on food composting and can come back with a short report on this effort later this fall. We have been working with Cedar Grove Composting which is one of the biggest composters in Seattle. The company is helping us with a brief feasibility study and analysis for what that would look like in town. We have really been focusing on public education over the past year.

Ms. Bursell asked about recycling for businesses and larger CBJ facilities. She would also like to see our City's clean drinking water be promoted to bring down the use of disposable water bottles. She would like to see the City support a No Waste program at public events.

Ms. Elfers said that residential recycling is paid for by user rates, which partially funds our program. It is different for businesses which have to buy a permit to recycle. Currently, not a lot of businesses purchase a permit because it is easier not to rather than try to participate in the recycling program in its current format. What we have to do is evaluate the rate structure because the rates have been the same for twelve years. A new rate structure would include business recycling.

Discussion ensued.

VII. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

A. August 12, 2016 through August 25, 2016

Mr. Jones had questions about the change orders for the Capital Transit project.

Mr. Healy will check on the total of the change orders for the project and respond. He also mentioned that there will always be change orders that add or reduce cost. The original intent of the Contract's Activity Report was to provide information to the PWFC on contracts being awarded or amended.

Discussion ensued.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM.