Assembly Standing Committee
Public Works & Facilities Committee Meeting
March 2, 2015, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
City Hall Assembly Chambers

Members Present: Jerry Nankervis (Chair), Karen Crane, Mary Becker, Loren Jones

Other Assembly Members: Mayor Sanford,

Planning Commission Representative: Dennis Watson

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer (City Manager), Rob Steedle (Deputy City Manager), Rorie Watt, John Bohan, Rich Ritter, Greg Smith, Samantha Stoughtenger, Hal Hart, Beth McKibben, Jim Penor, Kirk Duncan, Dave Crabtree, Ron King, Tricia Everson

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

February 9, 2015 - Approved

III. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

None.

IV. Items for Action

A. Electric Vehicle Resolution

Mr. Watt at the last PWFC meeting submitted a resolution that the JEDC Board had requested the Assembly consider for passage. PWFC members had questions and asked to be provided additional information by Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Mesdag from the JEDC Cluster Group. The broad view is the JEDC Board and Cluster Group want to encourage electric vehicles. JEDC sees the Assembly passing the resolution as a means for a couple of things; one to give the issue some press; the second is to indicate Assembly support for a program and third is to enhance chances for grant funding. JEDC agreed to remove language in the resolution concerning changes to the purchasing code and clarified that there would be no changes to our transit system as a result of more EV charging stations.

Mr. Wilkinson responded to the questions and concerns of the PWFC members.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Becker moved to forward the Electric Vehicle Resolution to the Assembly for approval with modifications to the wording in relation to the mention of off road vehicles, changes to the purchasing code, and changes to the transit system be forwarded to the full Assembly for approval.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

B. Seward Statue Project

Mr. Watt spoke on the request for $25,000 in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the purchase of Alaska from Russia to construct a statue of William Henry Seward who was instrumental in the purchase of Alaska in 1867 in the amount of $7.2 million dollars. Mr. Watt does not have a recommendation on this topic. Mr. Watt advised the committee that the most applicable source of funding for this project would be the Parks and Recreation Evaluation CIP

Ms. Becker moved to forward a $25,000 appropriation request for a statue of William Henry Seward to honor of the 150th Anniversary to the full Assembly for approval.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

V. Information Items

A. McGinnis Subdivision LID

Mr. Bohan, spoke on the proposed LID to resurface McGinnis Subdivision which could include an option to repave the whole subdivision. Recently, an informational meeting was held with the residents to discuss the project and LID process. The street is currently covered with chip seal to keep the dust down. Mr. Bohan stated that there are about 120 properties in the neighborhood. Mr. Jones asked if the project cost was known and how much it would cost the residents. Mr. Bohan estimates the project cost to be 3 to 7 million depending on the amenities that get added to the project scope. The estimate for this LID per property based on past projects is $4,000 each. Ms. Crane asked how much was available for the project in FY15. Mr. Bohan stated that phase I of this project has $1.2 million. Ms. Crane asked if funding was available beyond FY15. Mr. Bohan stated that no funds were yet identified beyond FY15 but it is a multi-phase project and much of the funding mechanisms depend on the decision of the residents to support the LID and the amenities they would like. Ms. Crane asked for a clarification on where the balance of the project funds would come from if they are not identified in the current CIP. Mr. Watt explained that, if needed, the project could be funded out of sales tax like any street project. Mr. Nankervis asked what would take place if the residents did not support the LID. Mr. Bohan stated that CBJ would continue to maintain the roads as best we could. Another option would be to replicate Sitka's solution and peel up the road surface and turn it back to gravel. The last resort would be to only pave areas that are a hazard.
If there is no support for the LID, the funds could be reprogrammed to another project on the priority list.

B. Cost Estimating

Mr. Watt gave a brief description on the intricacies of cost estimating CBJ projects. Mr. Watt explained that not all cost estimates are equal in precision and not all types of projects avail themselves to the same level of cost estimating. Mr. Watt gave an overview of the challenges in cost estimating for different types of projects and explained that it is not a process that provides consistency in results.

C. Public Works Facility Use Planning

Mr. Watt provided the big picture of Public Works Planning. In the future he would like to work with the Assembly to develop new and make a few management changes and capital investments to optimize our services and save the tax payers money. Mr. Watt spoke about the plan to relocate and consolidate certain CBJ operations in order to increase efficiencies. Mr. Watt spoke about the plan to develop a salt and sand storage facility at the 7 mile shop that would free up space at the hazardous waste facility. Mr. Jones asked if the new salt storage facility at the airport could be utilized by street operations. Mr. Watt was unsure about the timeline for construction of the airport facility and the ability to use that site for street operations. Ms. Crane asked for clarification on why the waste management fund would provide for the salt and sand storage facility. Mr. Watt explained that the most logical process would be for the waste management fund to provide financial resources to build a facility for street operations that would free up existing space so that the waste management program could grow. Mr. Nankervis expressed a desire to hear more about this topic at the next meeting.

D. Solid Waste – Recommendations.

Mr. Watt spoke briefly on the need to improve waste management practices. Improvements would take many forms. Public education would be a component in the overall goal to divert waste to the landfill through improved recycling efforts and solid waste handling.

VI. Contracts Division Activity Report

VII. Adjournment – Next Meeting Scheduled

Next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2015.