



Public Works Committee
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
6:00 p.m.
Community Room
Municipal Building-1st Floor
312 W Whitewater St
Whitewater, WI 53190

MINUTES

1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order by Marquardt at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Municipal Building in the Community Room on the 1st floor.

Present: Gerber, McCormick, Allen
Others: Marquardt

2. Election of Chairperson/Vice Chairperson

McCormick nominated Allen to be the Chairperson and seconded by Gerber.

AYES: All via voice vote (2)
NOES: None

Allen nominated McCormick as the Vice Chairperson and seconded by Gerber.

AYES: All via voice vote (2)
NOES: None

3. Set day and time for regularly scheduled monthly meetings

Allen stated the meetings have always been on Tuesdays, opposite of the Council meeting, at 6:00 p.m. Marquardt stated, if there were no objections, he would like to move the meeting back up to the 2nd floor Cravath Lakefront Room.

4. Approval of minutes from April 12, 2022

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2022 meeting was made by McCormick and seconded by Gerber.

AYES: All via voice vote (3)
NOES: None

5. Hearing of Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments at that time.

6. New Business

- a. **Discussion and Possible Action on awarding the Vanderlip Pumping Station and Force Main Replacement Project.**

Marquardt stated this project was bid out and opened on Thursday, May 5, 2022. He stated they received two bids. The budget was \$2,827,200. An updated cost estimate from Strand was \$3,100,000. The lowest bid came in at just over \$4,000,000 with the other bid around \$4,900,000. Marquardt said he did talk with Strand and they stated they did have a hard time estimating this project. It was noted they went off past projects from 2021 and did raise prices. Strand mentioned the contractors had concerns during the bid process. One was the access to the project with only having one way in and it's very narrow. There is also rock excavation and dewatering. The depth of the sewer in some areas is relatively deep, along with the amount of excavation needed for the lift station. Marquardt stated besides those areas of concern there was a lack of interest with contractors already having a busy schedule. Strand did mention on the day of the Public Works meeting that they had advertised a basic street reconstruction project in a nearby Milwaukee suburb. They were supposed to have opened bids last week; however, they did not because they didn't receive any bids. In regards to this project, there was a tight timeframe on Tratt St. to have that completed by the middle of August of this year before the students got back to town. There were also issues with equipment delays. One contractor did mention that the generator that would be part of the contract had a lead time of 48 weeks. That was from the time of shop drawing approvals and then they could order the generator, which would have put it past the completion date of the project.

Marquardt is recommending rejecting these bids. Strand will do some investigating with contractors that bid on the contract, as well as one that did not bid and see what other concerns they may have had about the project. Perhaps they could have a longer timeframe for the project, more flexibility in the schedule to see if that would help with the costs, and also look at phasing the project. The idea would be working with two contracts. They could do what they could with the budget of \$2,800,000 and then budget for the remaining portion in the 2024-2025 budget. Marquardt also learned that there might be some additional money put into the Clean Water Fund through the DNR. That money would also be through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that is coming out and projects could be eligible for up to \$750,000 in principal forgiveness loans. However, that is currently still being talked about at the DNR level and with State legislatures. Therefore, we don't have the final details yet. Marquardt stated items will be put together when they have more information, along with a recommendation.

Marquardt stated again that at this time the recommendation was to forward this to Council for rejection. McCormick suggested that Marquardt may want to fill in Gerber as to how this whole thing came about. Marquardt stated the West Side Sanitary Study was done for Vanderlip lift station and for Fraternity lift station. Both lift stations are old and there have been leaks on the force main of the Vanderlip lift station. One option was to replace just the Vanderlip lift station and the force main, which goes out to Tratt St, along Carriage Dr. and keep Fraternity lift station running, or replace Fraternity lift station. The other option was to remove the Fraternity lift station and run gravity sewer back to the Vanderlip lift station. Therefore, only having one lift station in service that they would have to worry about. It was recommended they remove Fraternity lift station and do the bigger project, which long term had the same cost benefit as having both lift stations in place.

Marquardt addressed a question Gerber had before the meeting regarding price differences. He stated he could not answer that question as he is not the one putting the project bids together from the contractors. You will see a price difference between contractors on different items because the contractor needs to make money up someplace else. Therefore, prices will differ from contractor to contractor on the same item. Since this is public bidding, and we accept the bid, we pay what the bid price is for that item.

Marquardt stated again they were looking to reject the bids. McCormick moved to reject the bids and forward it to Council and seconded by Allen.

AYES: McCormick, Allen, Gerber. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

b. Discussion and Possible Action regarding streets being submitted for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) federal funding.

Marquardt stated BIL stands for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This is federal government money that was given to states. The DOT is putting money into certain existing programs and creating one new program now that municipalities can apply for. The City is eligible to apply for Surface Transportation Program – Urban, which is an existing program. The new program, called Surface Transportation Program – Local, is for local streets. The urban is for arterial, or higher volume, direct routes. The local stands for local streets. The local is also available to help townships who are typically not able to apply for funding because they do not have urban designated streets through their townships. Marquardt stated it is a competitive application process. An application must be submitted for each project. If granted one of the projects, there will be a State Municipal Agreement that would come to the Common Council for approval. If we are selected it doesn't mean we will automatically receive the money. We could say no for whatever reason. The program is an 80% cost share. Meaning the federal government pays 80% and the other 20% is local. The 80% is capped at what we supply as an estimate. Marquardt is working on putting the applications together. He stated there are five streets that are listed as urban and prioritized in the following order; however, the State may prioritize a street differently.

STP Urban

- Walworth Avenue, Janesville Street west to City limits – Mill/Pulverization and Overlay, 2024
- Janesville Street, Walworth Avenue to STH 59 – Reconstruction, 2026
- Fremont Street, Lauderdale Drive to CTH U – Mill/Pulverization and Overlay, 2023. This does include a portion in the Town of Cold Spring. The Town is verbally on board with paying the City back for costs associated with their portion.
- W. Main Street, Indian Mound Parkway to City limits/Warner Road – Mill/Pulverization and Overlay, 2024
- Indian Mound Parkway, Walworth Ave to W. Main Street – Mill/Pulverization and Overlay, 2025

Local applications include:

STP Local

- Universal Boulevard, Industrial Drive to cul-de-sac – Mill/Pulverization and Overlay, 2025
- Technology Drive, Universal Boulevard to Innovation Drive – Mill/Pulverization and Overlay, 2025
- Innovation Drive, Technology Drive to Howard Road – Mill/Pulverization and Overlay, 2025
- Commercial Drive, Newcomb Street to Industrial Drive – Mill/Pulverization and Overlay, 2025

Marquardt stated since these streets are all in the Business Park, he would like to group these together as one project.

Also, under STP Local, City staff is completing an application for the Town of Cold Spring to submit for Howard Road, STH 59 south to the County Line. Much of Howard Road is half in the City and half in the Town, with pockets all being in the Town. The City would pay the Town back for costs associated with the City portion. The Town would submit this as their number one and only priority, which could be better than being submitted as the City's number two priority or fifth street under the STP Local.

The applications are due to the State by June 3, 2022. The City should be notified sometime in July 2022. Then, the State Municipal Agreement will specify which fiscal year the street is projected to begin.

Marquardt asked the board members if they had any suggestions for streets. Allen asked about Wisconsin St. and Marquardt said that doesn't meet the requirements, at this time. Gerber asked if the sidewalks would be replaced on Walworth since there are many lifts in different areas. Marquardt stated the City could handle this in its sidewalk replacement program. However, there will be a concrete contractor for the pedestrian ramps so it may be able to be added.

Allen asked what happened to our sidewalk replacement program. Marquardt stated it was non-existent when he came to Whitewater and doesn't know what happened to it. Allen stated we used to have one.

There are worse spots in town every year. Marquardt stated that is why he is trying to get it back up and going again.

7. Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items at that time.

8. Adjournment

McCormick moved to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting at 6:36 p.m. and seconded by Allen.

AYES: All via voice vote (3)

NOES: None

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Stoll, Administrative Assistant
Department of Public Works