

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**July 22, 2008**

**3:00 P.M.**

Councilman Rico, Chairman, called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order, with Councilmen Benson, Berz, Page, Bennett and Shockley present. Councilmen Pierce, Gaines and Robinson joined the meeting later. City Attorney Randall Nelson and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Adm. Leach, Lee Norris, Gene Hyde, Beverly Johnson, Dan Johnson, John VanWinkle, Richard Beeland, Barry Bennett, Dennis Malone and Ben Taylor. Daisy Madison and Rachel Hildebrandt joined the meeting later.

Adm. Leach stated that there were a few matters of Public Works and then continuing education. First, though, Beverly Johnson had a Resolution to present to the Council.

### **DEPT. OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES/URBAN DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

Ms. Johnson stated that this would be fairly quick. This is **Resolution (d)** on tonight's agenda that authorizes the Dept. of Neighborhood Services to enter into a partnership with TDEC to apply for and accept a federal Housing and Urban Development grant in an amount up to \$660,000.00 to eliminate lead hazards in selected homes occupied by low-to-moderate income residents, which grant requires no local matching funds. This will eliminate lead hazards in houses built before 1978. If TDEC is awarded the grant, they will make available to us \$15,000 per unit for lead removal; they will be able to give us this amount to eliminate this hazard, which will free up our funds for rehab.

Councilwoman Robinson wanted to know how these homes will be identified? Ms. Johnson explained they are in our rehab program or CNE—that it is just paint.

Councilwoman Berz asked as a point of clarification “Are we following the work session method”? She wanted to know if we were still voting?

Chairman Rico stated that the material presented tonight is just for information.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR JULY 22, 2008**

**Resolution 7(a)** authorizes Todd McCain to temporarily use the right-of-way at Manchester Ave. and Glenn Road to install a back entrance at the property.

Mr. McCain was present and explained what he was trying to do was to have a back driveway onto the existing roadway, which had never been developed. He stated that he needed access across it; that two others that adjoin are using this access; that this entails him coming from the back property line and tying on to the existing roadway that is already there.

Adm. Leach stated that he understood the neighborhood was supposed to get together, and he asked if this had been done?

Mr. McCain indicated that he had talked to the Mallchocks; that he had several surveys, if they would be helpful; that he wants to use a portion of Manchester Ave. to get onto Glenn Rd.

Adm. Leach stated that it was his understanding that discussions centered around the Mallchocks and Mr. Gentry—that they thought it might interfere with them.

Mr. McCain explained that he would be coming across from his property with 15 ft. to 20 ft. of asphalt and tie on to what is there now. He explained that this is in the Riverview area and that Glenn Rd. is at the Bird Sanctuary.

Councilman Benson questioned if this came up 2-3 years ago and Lew Boyd was against it? Mr. McCain stated that he bought the house from the Oehmigs four years ago. Councilman Benson stated that he thought it was something close to this and some at the Planning Commission objected. Mr. McCain stated that they bought the house and had spent two years restoring it and wanted a back drive-out; that he was not trying to subdivide.

Councilman Page asked if the neighbors knew about this? Adm. Leach responded that some of the neighbors had contacted the City Engineer and there had been some discussions with Bill Payne about this. Since Bill Payne was not present, Adm. Leach stated that the best course of action would be to defer this for two weeks.

Mr. McCain stated that he had talked to Bill Payne and Bill Canyon, and they had talked to the City Attorney, and they were all recommending approval; that all of the issues had been dealt with.

Adm. Leach stated that Lee Norris would try to call Mr. Payne about this.

Mr. McCain stated that he would relate some of the history that he knew; that an Ordinance closed an old platted road, and the roads were left open and Mr. Gentry claimed what was not closed as his and deeded this out; that Bill Payne and Bill Canyon said that Mr. Gentry took public land and was giving it out; that there was some question as to whether these conveyances were valid, and they felt they were not.

Adm. Leach stated that he knew there was a title issue.

Gene Hyde was present to go over **Resolution (f)** on tonight's agenda that authorizes an Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Grant from the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program through the Tennessee Division of Forestry in an amount up to and including \$20,000.00. Mr. Hyde stated that he would like to give the Council some background—that he had been working with the new Tree Initiative to plant 1500 trees in the downtown area; that they had done fund raising and can leverage these funds with a 50/50 grant; that he would just like permission to apply for this grant. Adm. Leach confirmed that our "Take Root" program would be the match, with Mr. Hyde adding that no city funds would be needed, and this would be approximately 1500 trees in the downtown area.

Councilman Pierce questioned if we had the space, and Mr. Hyde assured him that we did.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that this was a great program, with Adm. Leach adding that it was indeed a good program.

At this point, Chairman Bennett acknowledged that the Council does not have to vote on anything.

**Resolution (g)** authorized CDRC to enter into a contract with TWH Architects for architectural services relating to repair of the Passage at a cost not to exceed the State Fee Schedule. Adm. Leach noted that this had already been discussed.

Going back to **Resolution (f)**, Ms. Madison reminded that if fund raising was involved, to not forget the policy.

Adm. Leach stated that Mr. Norris had spoken with Bill Payne and that we would proceed with the temporary use for Todd McCain. Councilwoman Berz asked about "subject to certain conditions" and was told by Adm. Leach that this was probably utilities. Councilwoman Bennett asked if this had been worked out with the neighborhood and was told "yes".

**AGENDA FOR JULY 29, 2008**

**Ordinance 6(a)** is a closure and abandonment for Girl's Preparatory School in the 700 Block of Frazier Ave., subject to certain conditions. Adm. Leach explained that if GPS takes care of the block and leaves it open, this is agreeable; there is a separate agreement with GPS that says they would indeed do what they say they will do. Adm. Leach urged to press forward with this.

**Resolution 7(a)** authorizes an Aquatic Habitat Protection Program Grant from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 for stream clean-up activities along Friars Branch/South Chickamauga Creek Watershed. Adm. Leach noted that we would provide materials for the clean-up activities, along with tee shirts, bags, and gloves for those doing the cleaning. He stated that this was a good program and worth the cost.

**Resolution 7(b)** authorizes Contract No. E-06-006, Northpoint Boulevard Extension—Phases 2 and 3, to Stein Construction Co., Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$2,191,253.85, subject to availability of funds. Adm. Leach stated that we were underway with this, and it had presented some challenges. This is a continuation of the project.

At this point, Chairman Bennett noted that Ms. Madison had mentioned using money from this year's Capital Budget and also next year's and asked if there was something the Council needed to do? Ms. Madison responded that the Council needed to authorize the issuance of bonds to fund the Capital Budget; that she would be bringing this in a couple of weeks.

**Resolution ©** authorizes Contract No. W-04-008-201, Lake Hills Interceptor Sewer Relocation, to Haren Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$410,215.00, plus a contingency amount of \$40,000.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$450,215.00. Adm. Leach stated that this was the third attempt to do this and is a reconstruction of a sewer—they are re-routing a relocated sewer. Dennis Malone added that an overhead trestle pierced through the pipe, and it needs to be re-routed.

**Resolution (d)** authorizes Contract No. E-03-028-201, Hamill Road Improvements—Highway 153 to Hixson Pike—Phase I, to Stein Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$585,544.85, plus a contingency amount of \$60,000.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$645,544.85. Adm. Leach explained that there were three phases to this, and it is at the first traffic signal going towards Northgate and serves commercial uses.

**Resolution (e)** authorizes Change Order No. 1 (Final), relative to Contract No. E-06-012-201, Main Street Streetscape Phase 1 and 2, with Yerbey Concrete Construction, Inc., increasing the contract amount by \$9,410.59, for a revised contract amount not to exceed \$409,410.59. This closes out the contract. Adm. Leach stated that if anyone had been down Main St., they would see that the south is already done and they are 2/3 done on the north; that it is a good job.

**Resolution (g)** authorizes Nancy Adams (Southern Star) to temporarily use the sidewalk to hang a sign from the building that will be out over the sidewalk from edge of building. It will be 17 ¼ wide and there is plenty of clearance.

Mr. Norris reminded Adm. Leach that he missed **Resolution (f)** that authorizes Change Order No. 1 (Final) relative to Contract No. E-07-014-201, 2007 City Sidewalk Requirements Contract, with Yerbey Concrete Construction Inc., increasing the contract amount by \$2,763.65 for a revised amount not to exceed \$267,529.65.

Adm. Leach went over a purchase that will be on tonight's agenda for a single source purchase of Software Maintenance with Accela, Inc. in the amount of \$34,182.00.

#### **NEW SIGN REFLECTIVITY STANDARDS—BEN TAYLOR**

Adm. Leach stated that with the cost of asphalt prices, the FEDS have decided that we need more reflectivity on signs, and we will have to rebuild our signs. He turned the meeting over to Ben Taylor for a slide presentation.

Mr. Taylor went over the new Federal requests—the new reflectivity will be done with sign sheeting—the new thing is prisms that capture light. In 2007, the FEDS set the standards to be maintained due to an aging population and wrecks that occur at nighttime—signs are often not noticed at night. At this point, Mr. Taylor, showed signs that are below standard and are useless. He went on to say that the new standards must be in place by 2012—that we will have to have a policy in place to manage signs and keep up the level. In order to assess the methods, they would drive the streets at night to see what the requirements will be. If they did not do the inspections at night, they would have to use instruments that would be more costly. Another option would be to replace signs where the sheeting has exceeded the years that it was meant to last. It used to be that we just had to keep up signs adequately—now it is precise. He stated that we would have to go to prismatic, which would cost more—it is \$4.63 now and with prismatic, it will cost \$8.06. These will last longer, but there still will be an increase in the Sign Budget.

Mr. Taylor went on to say that by 2015, signs must be upgraded with new prismatic sheeting. He noted street markers at 6,000 intersections, sometimes requiring two markers, totaling 12,000 street markers that will have to be replaced. He noted that the FEDS decided that the size of the letters are not tall enough, and this will have to be changed by 2018. He emphasized that there is a new mandate out there, and we have deadlines to replace thousands of signs.

Councilwoman Robinson asked why the new sheeting was so much more expensive? Mr. Taylor responded that it was because of the technology involved.

As an aside, Adm. Leach stated that we put up wayfinding signs—that good signs go bad, and they have just about faded to white; that we are trying to figure out an economically sensible solution.

Councilwoman Bennett asked if there were no federal dollars to help with this? Mr. Taylor responded that most federal dollars are aimed at rural areas; that there is, however, one avenue that might be available that he is checking into. He went on to mention other things that might be on the horizon.

Mr. VanWinkle added that we are fortunate to get better prices by working with the State, and this had helped stretch our dollars. He stated that he thought Mr. Taylor's presentation spelled it out.

Adm. Leach stated that Traffic Engineering was always on duty. Councilman Page wanted to know who to call when you saw a traffic light out. Adm. Leach responded 311 or himself.

At this point, Councilman Benson stated that we would hold the Wrecker Ordinance as it is; that we had a situation that Councilwoman Bennett witnessed first hand on Friday; that Bob Brown of TDOT had said that TDOT has no position at this point in time; that a man from TDOT spoke to the Beer Board last Thursday but what he had said is null and void; that TDOT had been talking to the Federal Highway Administration, and there is a good possibility that we will hold the Ordinance as it is—that the Federal Highway Administration might have a pilot project here in Chattanooga, and there will be local money for it. He stated that we would hold this until we work out something with the Federal Highway Administration.

Councilman Pierce wanted to know where Councilman Benson got this information. He explained that Bob Brown had talked to someone and had given him his name; that he hoped this Federal person would be here next Tuesday—that TDOT wants them involved, and there might be money to help us carry out a Pilot Study.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.m.

