

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 15, 2011
3:15 P.M.

Chairman Rico called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order with Councilpersons Ladd, Robinson, Scott, Gilbert and Benson present. Councilmen McGary and Murphy joined the meeting later. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Mike Patrick, Dan Johnson, Dennis Malone, Bill Payne, Lee Norris, Jerry Stewart, Daisy Madison, John Van Winkle, Caroline Johnson, Chief Parker, Richard Beeland, Jim Templeton, Gary Hilbert, Alice Cannelli, Dickie Hutsell, Larry Zehnder, and Missy Crutchfield.

On motion of Councilwoman Ladd, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

Resolution 7(a) authorizes a change order for East Tennessee Grading, Inc., relative to Contract No. E-09-020-201, Volkswagen Drive at Discovery Drive Intersection Improvements, for an increased amount of \$24,346.93, for a revised contract amount not to exceed \$1,197,642.76, and to release the remaining contingency of \$92,957.24. Mr. Leach explained that they were rebuilding a T-Intersection into a Round-About on Volkswagen Drive so that traffic could be moved without putting signals in. This also allows connection with Amazon. He stated that this was a difficult project, and they ran into rock and had to get underground utilities and rock out of the way; that the Amazon Project is directly across. That this is a final change order—that they ran over; that the Intersection is working really well.

Resolution 7(b) on next week's agenda is River Street Extension, Phase 2, Contract No. E-07-001-202, to Dillard Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$807,725.19, with a contingency amount of \$40,000, for an amount not to exceed \$847,725.19. Mr. Leach explained that they were not able to finish this and had to put it into Two Phases and this is the second one; there is also a Pole Barn for Parks and Recreation that is included. He stated that they had asked Chairman Ladd for an additional Resolution for next week that goes along with this one.

Mr. Malone explained the additional Resolution, which deals with TDOT and is property under the Bridge that we have been working on for five years; that one thing we had considered was using this for parking but TDOT said we could not charge for parking and this went back and forth; that we could have parking and not charge for it but would have to build fortifications, which made no sense to us. The other issue was dealing with flammable materials and this is where the Pole Barn comes in; this will be an ongoing project for several years, and TDOT has sent us a Lease Agreement so that we can move forward with the project. This is a 15-Year Lease.

Councilwoman Scott asked what would be put beneath the Bridge? Mr. Malone responded that it is dirt now, and we will use stamp concrete to make a maintenance-free area to deal with. She asked if there would be parking and was told “no”. Mr. Malone again explained the fortification that would be needed for parking so that no one would run into the piers, stating that no place was left to park. Councilwoman Scott asked about previous surface options. Mr. Malone indicated that previous would not matter—that the issue with the State was getting too near their piers. Councilwoman Scott stated that she thought it was grass now and was told it is dirt. Mr. Leach stated that these two Resolutions go hand in hand.

He then noted that they would have two Presentations—The first is the Driver Education Program, which has seen a lot of success and the second is the Sewer Line Process. He called on Mr. John Van Winkle for the first presentation.

Mr. Van Winkle stated that the Driver Education Program had reached a milestone—that it was their two-year anniversary, and they thought this was an appropriate time to give an update as to their success and how they had been so well-received; also where they were going with the program. He called on Caroline Johnson to give a run-down.

Ms. Johnson stated that they had been on this adventure for two years and had used \$284,000 of photo-enforcement money; that they had conducted 27 courses at recreation centers and 897 kids had graduated. They are going to purchase new audio-visual equipment that will stay with the recreation centers. She added that they had spent some money on promotional materials—only \$5,000, which was wonderful; that they wanted to use the majority of the money to teach kids to be better drivers. She also mentioned that 897 drivers represented a savings—that if these kids had gone to private driving schools, they would have spent \$313,000; there is also a savings on car insurance—a \$185.00 savings and the lives saved are priceless. She stated that all of these kids are well trained. She went on to talk about their location at the 12 wonderful recreation centers, which is convenient for everybody; that the classes are jam-packed, and there is a waiting list. She stated that all districts were well represented. The newest class is at the old Hixson Middle School, and they are the first program to set up shop there. She mentioned that Sgt. Joe Warren speaks to the children. Another new site is in partnership with TDOT on Volkswagen Drive. One of their new directions is to take the driving program to older drivers and also conduct a defensive driving course.

Chairman Rico told her that they were doing a good job and to keep this up. Councilman Gilbert also echoed that they were doing a good job and that his twins had enjoyed the classes.

Adm. Leach noted that we had a private vendor for this, and it puts money back into the economy.

SEWER LINING PROCESS

Two representatives of Jacobs Engineering were present for this presentation. They showed slides of what sewers look like that need refreshing. The representative stated that within Public Works there are many requests for work on sewers; that they would show why the work is needed, mentioning sewer overflows and that the problem is untreated wastewater that gets onto our streets and is not a good thing; that this goes on all around the country. He stated that they would be talking about the Sanitary Sewer Collection System and not the Combined Sewer—that Chattanooga is way ahead of most places today with the Combined Sewer. A map of the City was shown, with sewers. He mentioned some high infiltration and inflow and that excess water is determined by monitoring. He then went on to explain how they monitor—they clean the sewers and insert cameras to register defects and use sonar for debris in the sewer lines; that this is all part of the inspection and development of a Plan. He talked about the rating system for defects—from one to five, noting that they tried to fix those in the range of three to four. He mentioned 801 defects, stating that 305 of these were in the three to five category. He talked about root intrusion that forms blockages in the system.

He went on to say that sewer taps are done correctly—that they are sealed around the edges so that no water gets in. Another issue is that sewers get blocked by grease, which results in a need for cleaning and maintenance cost.

He showed some film from East Brainerd with rating defects from three to five, which have to be addressed, and they take care of this—it is excess water in the sewer system, showing that roots denote cracks. He explained that pipes have to be sized to handle excess water and excess water causes damage to the sewer system.

He went on to say that this can be fixed in a number of ways—one is open cuts, which disturbs the underground utilities and is expensive. Another fix is a line to the sewers, which is a flexible tool that can be used without disturbing the surface, and they seal all joints. He added that Chattanooga has 1268 miles of sewers. He went on to talk about the Tiftonia and Amnicola Projects. He showed corrosion after being lined and sealed, with minimal surface disruption. He stated that no one wants sanitary sewer overflows, and we have to take action to get excess water out of the system, and it requires regular maintenance.

Councilwoman Scott noted that we do not have to go in and remove pipes and asked about puncture and backfill. The representative explained “point repair”, where the whole sewer line is not affected.

Councilman Benson thanked the representative for his presentation, stating that he wished all citizens could see this. He noted that we need remediation and talked about a Regional Sewer Authority. He noted that the speaker had shown pipes in East Brainerd, stating that he did not think these were too old. Adm. Leach stated that some of these pipes have been damaged and need repair.

Councilman Benson went on to mention the Combined Sewer downtown, noting big problems. The representative indicated that this was pretty well taken care of. Councilman Benson mentioned that some said you could drive a small car through. The speaker went on to say that he was not implying that just East Brainerd had problems, but these had been surveyed.

Chairman Rico thanked them for their presentation.

Councilman Gilbert asked what the worst area in Chattanooga was. The representative stated that it would be the older areas with clay pipes—that he could not say, specifically, what the worst area was.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.