

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

APRIL 10, 2012

3:35 P.M.

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

Others present included Dennis Malone, Chief Maffett, Gary Hilbert, Greg Haynes, Jim Templeton, Larry Zehnder, Chief Parker, Donna Kelley, Dickie Hutsell, Daisy Madison, Dan Johnson, John Van Winkle, Caroline Thompson, Steve Leach, Chief Dodd, Lee Norris, Richard Beeland, Chief Kennedy, Jerry Stewart, and Danny Thornton.

On motion of Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman McGary, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Adm. Leach proceeded with agenda items, starting with **Resolution 7(b)** that enters into an agreement with Sensys America, Inc. for automated traffic infraction detection and enforcement. He explained that several years ago the Staff looked at the current contract and needed to refresh it. They went through the RFP process with the help of John Van Winkle, the Police Dept., Purchasing, the Legal Staff, and the Treasurer's Office in order to craft a better contract. He stated that it was a great group effort and turned the meeting over to John Van Winkle.

Mr. Van Winkle stated that it had been seven months of exhaustive effort; that it was really a Blue Ribbon Committee consisting of the Purchasing Dept.; Patrick Bobo with negotiations; the Police Dept. with Sgt. Gary Morton; his own department with technical aspects; the Finance Department with Daisy Madison and Brian Smart; Jan Turner and Chris Fryar with the City Court Office; all of which guided this effort. Also, Matt Lea, kept them in touch with the Mayor's Office.

He stated that he would give a brief overview; that the 2011 Laser Craft was bought out, and the contract had expired, and it was in our best interest to go out and open this up; that an RFP had been developed, with four bidders; that in September they reviewed the bids and conducted interviews; that in October they ranked the proposals and selected Sensys America, Inc. in December. One week field testing was done, and the results were promising—that this was more than adequate for red light enforcement; that in January they voted for Sensys because it stood out as a good fit for us; that from January through this month, they had been negotiating the terms of the contract and today they were asking for this Resolution to be approved.

Mr. Van Winkle next went over the features, noting that it was State of the Art Doppler Radar for speeding and red lights; that it can cover 20 vehicles simultaneously and offers versatility and can be done on curves. Included as a provision is that we will be able to move fixed cameras when they are not cost-effective—that we can move cameras to where the problems are. The cameras will be leased at \$1,400 per camera per month or \$1,600 for a fixed camera, emphasizing that we can move cameras to other locations, which gives us a lot more flexibility and is very effective for us. We will lease an SUV for vans and will have control of vehicles. We will continue to review the citations. He noted that a lot of effort had gone into this, and they were very pleased—that it had been a good team network, and a lot of options were available.

Councilman Benson stated that he was a convert to support the cameras; that the cameras had stopped speeding and got people into the habit of driving slower; that cameras were strictly objective, and he liked the idea of moving them around. He noted that there was a person sitting very close to him that had gotten camera tickets at least three times!

Mr. Van Winkle agreed that they changed driving behavior and that they worked. Councilman Benson noted that it sure changed driving behavior on PineWood. Mr. Van Winkle also mentioned the Driver Education Program that was funded with this.

Councilwoman Scott praised the committee for their due diligence; that we saved money and made our services go further when we negotiated upfront. She stated that she had had many conversations with Mr. Van Winkle with complaints about speeding in neighborhoods, and it just does not make sense to put police officers at every corner; that she appreciated that officers were not sitting in cars waiting for speeders and could be somewhere else; that it seemed to her that this is one of the best things that has happened—that at the worst someone can get cited; that it avoids accidents; and we get Driver Education on top of this and insurance goes down in the process. She wanted to know the estimated number of students in the Driver Education Program and was told about 100. Mr. Van Winkle noted that classes fill up—that Caroline Johnson was present to answer any questions about this—that this is a very popular program, and this will further enhance it. Councilwoman Scott stated that this was good for Chattanooga.

Adm. Leach added that it makes for safer streets and trained kids.

Resolution (c) authorizes the Mayor to apply for a Safe Kids USA Grant for environmental modifications to improve conditions for child pedestrians around Battle Academy, Orchard Knob Elementary, Carver Recreation Center, East Chattanooga Recreation Center, and Avondale Recreation Center in the amount of \$16,300. We will be doing some enhancements to cross walks.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 17, 2012

Ordinance First Reading (a) is an abandonment for Bill Weaver of two rights-of-way located in the 1200 Block of Brief Street and the 1200 Block of Hill St. This is on the east side of Lookout Mtn. in the St. Elmo area; the applicant will re-subdivide and can then re-develop. **Ordinance (b)** is an abandonment for Gail Hart of a portion of an alleyway off of the east of the 1500 Block of Williams Street, south of Main Street, with Chattanooga Gas to maintain the easement in the full width. This is a portion of an alley that was not abandoned years ago and is an odd thing. Councilwoman Scott stated that her question pertained to her looking at the back-up—that we were reserving the easement for Chattanooga Gas and asked if we had signed off on other utilities, wanting to know why Comcast and EPB were not included? Mr. Malone explained that he would have to talk to Bill Payne about this; that they had talked to the utilities, and the others had removed their requests. Adm. Leach agreed to verify this.

Councilwoman Scott went back to **Ordinance 6(a)**, the abandonment for Mr. Bill Weaver. She noted that it also said in the notes that he was considering a garage or accessory building. She wanted to know if he would be able to build over an easement? Mr. Leach responded “no”—that he would have to relocate easements—that he could not build over an easement. Councilwoman Scott wanted to make sure he was told this.

Resolution 7(b) authorizes a contract to Pettus Mechanical Contractors for the replacement of the HVAC system in the laboratory at the Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$212,400. Adm. Leach stated that this was the low bid and replaces an old unit, and we are updating the infiltration because of the issues we are having—this is over 30 years old.

Resolution 7(c) authorizes the waiver of landfill disposal fees associated with the Great American Clean-Up, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00. Adm. Leach explained that if a contractor hauls a load to the landfill, we will waive fees—that this is at the end of the month, around the 27th.

Resolution 7(d) authorizes Change Order No. 1 for Volkert & Associates, Inc., the Chattanooga Regional ITS System Design, for an increased amount of \$220,000, for a revised contract amount not to exceed \$2,720,000. This is part of the ITS implementation.

Resolution 7(e) authorizes an on-the-job injury settlement between Hewitt Coleman and Walter Dana Young in the amount of \$10,001.00, in accordance with Ordinance No. 12573. Donna Kelley was present to talk about this settlement with Mr. Young.

Ms. Kelley thanked the Council for the opportunity to clarify this; that the Council had passed an Ordinance for this to occur; that this man had been injured with the City and was in a “holding pattern”; that because of it being a \$1.00 over \$10,000 it was pre-empted; that the exact amount will be determined between now and next Tuesday; that this was covered in this

fashion for the Council to acknowledge the new format and see if the process is acceptable; that they are able to see the manner it was received and how it is being acted on; that she did not think getting into the medical history was appropriate. She just wanted the Council to confirm the process; that any amount that exceeded \$10,000 would be handled in this fashion.

Councilman Murphy thanked Ms. Kelley for bringing this to the Council in this “tenor”; that it first appears that the amount exceeds \$10,000—that the amount was for \$10,001 and to avoid confusion, he thought that it should read “amount to exceed”.

Councilwoman Berz noted that we had been working on this process and wanted to know how the process was working? Ms. Kelley responded that it is still working. Councilwoman Berz asked if all the steps we talked about were good? Ms. Kelley responded that the start-up was sluggish; that it was enhanced with the length of time; that in the future they would not do what it being done today, but Councilman Murphy’s point is well taken.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she had no desire to know the medical information but would like to be mindful of the type of injuries that are occurring and would like to request good information to see collectively what the injuries are on a monthly or quarterly basis; that she would like to see this—that no names had to be attached.

Ms. Kelley stated that they already did this internally, and they could track it at the Council’s pleasure.

This meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.