

**BOARD OF WORKS  
WASTEWATER UTILITY  
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009  
8:00 A.M.**

Mayor James Fleck – Present  
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present  
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Present  
Walt Crowder – Present  
Roger Seymoure – Present

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with all members present, Mayor Fleck presiding.

**2009 SIDEWALK AWARD** Kelly Cearbaugh recommended awarding the 2009 sidewalk enhancement project to Garcia in the amount of \$23,120.00. He advised the areas involved were Chicago Street, north side of Ellsworth Street and Washington Street between Collinwood and Brownwood on the west side.

Roger Seymoure questioned if they sent out specifications. Kelly advised they did. Jeff Walker explained they use the same specifications that are in the subdivision ordinance.

Upon the motion of Crowder second by Seymoure to accept Kelly's recommendation to award the sidewalk enhancement project to Garcia in the amount of \$23,120.00, all voted aye.

Mayor Fleck asked that the contract be reviewed by Attorney McNagny to make sure there were no misunderstandings since there had been some issues in the past.

**2009 CURB ENHANCEMENT AWARD** Kelly Cearbaugh recommended awarding the 2009 curb enhancement project to Garcia in the amount of \$26,618.00. He stated the areas involved were Chicago Street, Ellsworth and Washington Streets.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Crowder to approve the recommendation by Kelly for the curb enhancements and award the contract to Garcia in the amount of \$23,618.00.

Kelly explained the overall package for sidewalks and curbs came in lower than what was allocated. He advised he was going to look into having more curb work done. Walt Crowder questioned how much extra would be left. Kelly thought it would be around \$20,000.00.

Upon the motion, all voted aye.

**CURB CUT REQUEST – 113 E. MARKET STREET** Jeff Walker advised he followed up with Attorney McNagny as well as David Sewell on the site development. He stated everything was in compliance and the only thing that would be required additionally was 2 street trees. He advised that was passed on to Niblock and they agreed to it.

Jeff advised he and Kelly reviewed the curb cut and it met all of the requirements.

Roger Seymoure questioned if they would lose parking on the street with the curb cut. Jeff advised they would lose 2 spots but would be getting the people using street parking for law offices off street.

Upon the motion of Mayor Fleck second by Seymoure to approve the recommendation and allow a curb cut on Washington Street as described in the proposal for 113 E. Market Street, all voted aye.

**CHANGE ORDER #1 – SANDBLAST INTERIOR OF DETENTION TANK** Mike Dear advised they pumped down the aeration tank to start work on the inside and they found an extra coating on the concrete that did not appear in the original documents. He explained for the Zypex to stick and be guaranteed they were going to have to blast the extra coating off. He advised the change order was in the amount of \$16,800.00.

Roger Seymoure questioned how long the guarantee was on the coating they were putting on. Mike was not sure but thought it should make the tank last another 20 – 25 years.

Walt Crowder confirmed they had the funding for it. Mike advised they did.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Crowder to approve the addendum to add \$16,800.00 for sandblasting floor, walls and ceiling of the detention tank as requested by Mike Dear, all voted aye.

**REQUEST FOR SIGN – 225 W. VAN BUREN STREET** Mayor Fleck questioned if anyone had been contacted on the committee with respect to downtown revitalization. Jeff Walker advised they had not. Mayor Fleck stated they might be eligible for a grant through the Redevelopment Commission if they were within the guidelines in terms of historic preservation.

Walt Crowder expressed a concern with having an awning all the way to the curb. Jeff Walker advised he and Kelly Cearbaugh agreed. He stated it was going to be their recommendation if it was approved that it would have to be backed up to the building side of the brick inlay and no further out than any of the existing awnings.

Jeff questioned if they should have the owner go to the appropriate people for design and then come back to the Board. Mayor Fleck felt they should. Jeff advised he would call Lynette Harrison and have her contact the appropriate persons.

**QUOTES: MAIN AND JEFFERSON STREET LIFT STATION REPLACEMENTS** Mike Cook advised he received quotes from DLZ and Bonar Group for preliminary study recommendations as well as the bidding contracts through IDEM to replace the Main and Jefferson Street lift stations. He explained he and Jeff Walker reviewed both quotes and recommended going with Bonar Group in the amount of \$72,300.00.

Mayor Fleck advised the project was one that qualified for stimulus money. He felt if we move too soon on the project the engineering costs may be excluded. He was concerned that unless the project was an emergency that they wait to try and maximize the dollars put into it locally. Mike Cook advised the Main Street lift station was in bad shape but if it failed they had the means to fix it. He stated the project could also be broken down into just the investigative stage which would cost \$29,900.00.

Walt Crowder felt it all went back to review and discussion of how many of the shovel ready projects could be done. He stated there could be 4 more projects coming that would need to be evaluated and prioritized. He felt if two weeks would not jeopardize anything he would like to wait. Mayor Fleck stated the engineers may know if the project would qualify. He added it could be a \$25,000 decision. Jeff Walker did not feel a two week wait would matter but he and Mike looked at it differently in that this was for existing infrastructure that needed to be maintained one way or another. He did not feel it was a matter of if they do it but when they do it, as opposed to the new projects. Walt agreed and explained they may end up funding the project 100% because it was not top priority with what could be done. He advised he was not saying to take it off the table but how it was going to be funded was what needed to be evaluated. Mayor Fleck advised they knew it had to be done but needed to determine what the least expensive way locally would be.

**WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT** Mike Cook reported he put together the scope for the recycle station at the plant and has a meeting scheduled with Attorney McNagny to review the scope and draw up a contract for when the project was awarded. He advised he put in an order with AEP to have the electrical installed at the Coesse lift station.

Mike reported Shambaugh started on the storage tank repairs. He advised they were not pleased with how the new brackets came from the manufacturer so took them to their shop and rewelded and added some things to make the brackets stronger. He explained they started to install them and went to use the new davit crane to lift up the mixer that had fallen off and the back side of the crane lifted off the deck and started pulling the bolts out. He advised Shambaugh was going to manufacture and fabricate 2 stainless steel plates and bore all the way through deck so the plates could be bolted together. He stated he was having a plate added to the underneath side of the deck. Walt Crowder questioned since there was a modification to the design what that would do to the warranty and accountability if something were to happen. Mike did not think it would do anything. He stated the contractor putting in the new crane suggested that may be an option to drill all the way through the deck and put a plate on the bottom. Walt understood but was concerned with something being brand new that was being modified. Jeff Walker advised they had kept the design engineer in the loop. Attorney McNagny advised Walt was correct in that if there was a warranty issue they would not want to end it because of the change. Mike advised they were working on the other parts and would not have them install the plates until after talking with Attorney McNagny on Tuesday.

Mike reported on the Radio Road regulator. He explained it was a programmable gate with a sensor that was designed to check the level and flow coming into the plant every 4 ½ minutes. He stated if the flow reaches 11 million gallons the gate will start closing to 50% and will continue to check every 4 ½ minutes to maintain that amount of flow.

Mike discussed the issue of hiring a new employee. He explained when they had their audit last December it was noted that there were problems related to time constraints with the current staffing level. Mayor Fleck advised Mike and Jeff had talked to him on several occasions about this. He stated when there was a reduction in the department because of employees retiring they only replaced one of two positions until they understood the requirements and demands of the new plant. He advised with respect to that they have been operating with one less person to do a lot of the required tasks that have to be done for which the City could get in trouble if we do not comply. He explained during the State's evaluation the verbal communication on staffing was stronger than what was written. He stated if this were an option on whether or not to fill pot holes or to do other services in which there was discretion was one thing but when we are up against Federal and State requirements and subject ourselves to fines he did not think it was a risk that should not be taken. He advised economically it was not a good time but in terms of service he did not think it was an area in the City they could not afford to comply with. Jeff mentioned the fines were \$25,000 per day. Mayor Fleck explained the person initially could be hired in at the low pay grade level versus someone who would have a lot of training. He stated the training needed to be done in house and the system needed to be learnt from the ground up with respect to the tasks that need to be done. He advised they did not feel they needed a trained lab tech that would require higher hourly wages.

Walt Crowder stated back when the project started they asked for a best recommendation of staffing requirements when the plant was fully operational and based upon that recommendation the department was understaffed then and now. He questioned if by hiring one would that bring us back to even but still below what was recommended. Mayor Fleck was not sure they were in the position to answer that question. He stated the major issue was compliance. Walt advised he knew they were holding off because there was discussion on structure of the department and job positioning. Mike explained Austin Babb came with 12 years experience and only took 2 days to learn the procedures. Walt confirmed they were just filling a vacancy and the budget for the position was still there. Mayor Fleck advised that was correct. Walt stated they made a commitment to the department several years ago when the project was started and felt they should move forward with it. Roger Seymoure questioned if there was a need for approval since it was already in the budget. Rosie Coyle advised it had always been a courtesy to approve it.

Mayor Fleck felt they should start the process of advertising, interviewing and processes to make it happen. He felt they should also review the job description to make sure it was adequate.

The Board agreed to move forward with the process.

**CARDINAL GRAIN – EASEMENT** Jeff Walker reported he met with the owner of the former Cardinal Grain building and received approval for the necessary easements for the South Chauncey Street project.

Mayor Fleck advised they were in conversations with Peanut Smith regarding the easements needed from him.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** Mayor Fleck made some comments with respect to the impact the new project would have on the rates. He explained the stimulus money and flood money would have

significant impact with respect to the study that was done and whether or not there needed to be an adjustment of rates and what it would look like. He added it would also have a significant impact on how the project was financed.

Jeff Walker stated the thought of potentially having all of the project funded, aside from going through financing through SRF, would potentially complicate the stimulus package related to the Brownfield project for CF Gomma. Mayor Fleck agreed there were other issues and shared what some of those were.

**LEADERSHIP WHITLEY COUNTY** Mayor Fleck congratulated Jeff Walker and Kelly Cearbaugh for completing Leadership Whitley County. He advised there were several graduates of the program from the City.

**DOWNTOWN PLANT WATERING** Mayor Fleck reported they were trying to coordinate the watering of plants downtown. He advised Gloria Smith was not going to be able to do it again.

Walt Crowder questioned if that was a City project or Chamber project. Mayor Fleck advised it was a Chamber project but Pat Hatcher had come to the City for help in working it out.

**FARMER'S MARKET** Mayor Fleck reported he was notified there was an expanded group of people who had things to sell at the Farmer's Market this year. He advised he would be talking with Nick Hiss and Tiffany Herron who were the leaders of the group. Mayor Fleck stated the City and community would be affected. Walt Crowder questioned what they were attempting to do. Mayor Fleck was not sure but was guessing they wanted more space.

**EAGLE GLEN GARAGE SALE** Mayor Fleck advised the Board was asked by the City Council to approve one way traffic on certain streets in Eagle Glen as outlined in the request.

Roger Seymoure confirmed the Police signed off on the request. Mayor Fleck advised they had.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Crowder to approve the same set up as last year for the Eagle Glen garage sale, all voted aye.

Having no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

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Mayor James Fleck

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Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle

