

SPECIAL SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2004

Members of Safety Committee present: Mel Clemens, Ron Stake, Preston Stearns, Brett Baxter, Eric Gilbert, Lane J. Beougher, Antoinette Newman.

Other member of Council present: Council President William L. Hills.

Mr. Clemens: I'd like to call the Safety Committee meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Also I'd like to add as item 2a, we have a speaker.

Item number 2, Discussion, Legislation for Taylor Road Reconstruction Project, Preliminary Engineering. We do have an ordinance before us to appropriate \$294,500 for the design and the bidding for Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton. **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND BIDDING OF THE TAYLOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT; APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE (CIP #83) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: SECTION 1.** That Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton Incorporated is hereby authorized and directed to provide engineering services, in accordance with the proposal dated June 29, 2004 received by Reynoldsburg City Council July 26, 2004, for the design and bidding of the Taylor Road Reconstruction Project. **SECTION 2.** That to fund the services referred to in Section 1, an amount of \$294,500 in the unappropriated General Fund be and hereby transferred to the Capital Improvements Program Fund and appropriated to account number 410.083.5651. **SECTION 3.** That this ordinance is deemed to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety and further so the project can begin; wherefore upon adoption by Council this ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon signature by the Mayor.

This ordinance pertains to the design of the project in the city limits of Reynoldsburg only. I wanted to make that plain. Are there any questions from City Council to the Administration? (No response). To our City Engineer? (No response). Any public comment? (No response). I think that since this has been pushed for and worked hard for by Ward III Councilman Eric Gilbert, I'd like to have him make the motion.

Mr. Gilbert: Thank you. I'll make the motion that we move this to Finance Committee for the appropriation as an emergency.

Mr. Clemens: I'll second. All in favor, say aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). This will go to Finance Committee for approval.

The next item on the agenda, we have a speaker. Mr. Joe Wood. Would you please come forward sir and give your name and address? The topic pertains to the storm water drainage problem at Bartlett and Parkinson over the weekend.

Mr. Wood: Good evening. My name's Joe Wood. I live at 6983 Bartlett. Right near the corner of Bartlett and Parkinson. And I think everybody here knows that it rained hard Saturday. Everybody's aware that there's a problem there. There's been a problem there with storm water

drainage. The first time that I became aware that there was a big problem, they cut the ditch between the houses across the street from the intersection. Mr. Clemens has been out there. Mr. Gilbert has been out there. He has the pictures that I took Saturday. That water out there was unbelievable. The amount of water that came down, and the flooding that resulted from it is, if you look at the pictures you'll see. It's a real problem even with that ditch cut between the houses. It's something that needs to be taken care of. If you look at the pictures, and we can discuss it again in September.

Mr. Clemens: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Wood. The reason this is on the Safety Committee meeting is because it's a safety issue. Joe and I spoke about this. The safety part of it was, that we had 3 foot of water in the intersection. Proper calls were made when they should have been made. The police showed up but there were no barricades or nothing installed and the water was there for 2 ½ or 3 hours. Now, and I'm not putting the blame on any, but this is not the proper way that we handle things. We had people go down and try to drive through the water. We had people go down and turn around. Darkness was coming. I don't understand why it wasn't barricaded because it always has been in the past. The Mayor and I have been through this situation. We've been down there. There were kids swimming in this. I tell you, the manhole covers blew off. I've been down there with the Mayor where we've had to make them get out. Because it is unsafe. They could be sucked in one of those manholes in no time at all. I don't know why parents let kids do things like this but I think, I would ask the Mayor if he knew it, to check in and see why we didn't, why things weren't taken care of in a safety matter. Because I know that we usually do have no problem getting things like this done.

The second problem is, and this is not a blame for anybody either, but this is a situation that's happened probably over the last 30 or 40 years. It's not Mayor McPherson's fault or the Administration's fault. The matter is, it's a problem we have to address and we haven't addressed it when it should have probably. We did about 6 years ago, 7 years ago, go down and cut a drainage swail through between two homes. Now this does keep the water from going in these two homes and possibly three others, but it doesn't stop it from going in the home that sits directly on the southeast corner. Water floods in one door and out the other. It was in their car, about 3 foot high in the car. I went down (today), and I do want to thank Mr. Gilbert. I was out of town for three days and was not able to be there but Mr. Gilbert did go down to see the situation. This simply has happened to that house I don't know how many times in the last 30 years. As a matter of fact the house is settling. Water goes in one door and right out the other. It's something that I went to the Mayor about 8 years ago and started the storm water utility. This is one of the main reasons, is because of these projects that we have problems with. We were able to get it approved through Council. The engineers, and the Mayor, and I, and Larry Ward got this set up where the homeowner's paid a dollar and a quarter a month to go in the fund to generate money to take care of these larger projects. Now I'm speaking of this, and I'm not speaking against our Storm Water people because we have a good Storm Water Department. They work on our manholes. They've been working on the gutters. They've been really doing a good job on the issues that they can do. But we do have these major projects that have to be taken care of. I have no idea how much money's in the Storm Water Fund. I know that we've hired personnel and we've bought equipment. We've hired additional personnel. The money's been taken out, some of it out for the Streetscape. And that's another thing that I would like to speak about. I think I've brought this up many times and I'm going to bring it up again. People in that district and in Huber

homes, care more about the safety of the streets and the safety of their homes and the damage of their homes and the projects that we don't complete. The infrastructure in our older neighborhoods have to be taken care of. I'm not speaking against the Street Program or the Streetscape Program. I think it's nice. But if we're able to go out and bond, and borrow, and beg, and steal 6 million dollars, 7 million dollars to do that project, and I think we're going to do the same thing for the other section, then we ought to be able to come up with money to take care of these projects. Because as far as I'm concerned this project is something that has to be done. This has happened probably 5 times in the last 25 years. We all have a problem when it happens. Then a month later we forget about it. We have had our engineers look at it, design different ways it can be handled to be corrected. It's a major project. It can be an expensive project. There could be a storm sewer run down the middle of the street of Bartlett clear down to the creek. And if we're thinking about doing this, which I hope we will, and I will keep pushing on it after we send it to Mr. Gilbert's committee, we ought to think about if we're going to repave that street, which we are going to repave it in this project that we're doing at the present time on the Street Program. Possibly that section of the street should not be paved and just spend additional money to tear it up maybe next year if we do get this project moving. But any how, this is a project that goes to the Service Committee under Mr. Gilbert's control. And I know that he has worked on other projects as far as storm water is concerned on Broadwyn Drive, which completely flopped and I'm hoping that we can take care of. That's another one we have to address because we had another drainage problem there this past weekend. I think these are things that we've got to figure out how we're going to handle them. I think it's our responsibility. I think we know about these. And once we know about these, it's like anything else, we know this happens and we don't correct it and it happens again and we don't correct it, I think it's our responsibility. When these things happen I think we're responsible. I think we should be paying and taking care of whatever the damages are. Because we're setting a precedence and I think our City Attorney has told us about doing these things. Once you set a precedence and you know it's there and you don't correct it, it's like any other situation we get into, then that leaves us liable for lawsuits. I feel strongly about this. As I said, I don't think the blame lies anywhere, the blame probably lies with me as much as anybody because I was the Service Director for 10 years and I sure didn't get it corrected. I would have liked to but couldn't. But I think this is something, I really think it's something serious that we should get into and I appreciate Joe coming here this evening. I know it's hard to come before Council. He called me about it and I said I would appreciate it if he would come. With that, I'll turn this over to Mr. Gilbert's committee and we'll go from there. Are there any other questions for Mr. Wood? Mr. Gilbert.

Mr. Gilbert: I would just note, we will add this in September. The Mayor and the other members, these two areas are referenced in the Storm Water Utility Study. That prioritizes them as the number one and number two problem identified by our City Engineer. And that copy should be on file in the Clerk's office. That will give you some background and impact of the problem. And I believe that was from the late 90's or maybe the year 2000. There is also a considerable amount of history in regards to the Broadwyn project. We got very close and then ran into an issue with an adjacent homeowner in regards to easements. And there's a number of pages of minutes in the Clerk's office for you to review as far as how we work handling that issue. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Clemens: I'd just like to say one thing more. We just increased the Storm Water payment to the public from \$1.25 to \$2.00 a month. With this utility, the money's there to take care of projects. I know we spend a lot of money on Issue 2. We hired people to work on this. But I think the public expects us to take that money and take care of these projects. I mean this is what the money is going in there for. This is what they're paying for. And it's hard to go down and tell somebody that they've been paying a dollar and a quarter a month for the last 8 or 9 years and they're out there trying to wring their carpet out because we haven't done anything. So I think it's something serious and I think it's something that I'd appreciate the Service Committee to look at hard. Are there any other questions for Mr. Wood from Council? (No response).

If not, I'd like to adjourn the Safety Committee meeting at 7:25.

Special Safety Committee

- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

(Transcribed - Susie Smith)

August 2, 2004

SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2004

Members of Finance Committee present: Ron Stake, Mel Clemens, Eric Gilbert, Lane J. Beougher.

Other members of Council present: Antoinette Newman, Preston Stearns, Brett Baxter, Council President William L. Hills.

Mr. Stake: I'd like to call the Special Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:26.

On the agenda, item number 2 is to discuss the appropriation for Taylor Road, the engineering for Reynoldsburg's portion of Taylor Road. Earlier in the week, or last week, the Mayor and I had some conversations in regards to how to fund this. He had a proposal, some suggestions. I think we had decided that it would be best to maybe not drain the CIP Fund. So the suggestion, which is in your legislation is to appropriate \$294,500 from the General Fund into the CIP Fund. Are there any questions or comments from members of the committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). The Administration? (No response). Okay. Then I'll make a motion that we approve the appropriation of \$294,500 for the Ordinance authorizing the engineering of Taylor Road from the General Fund into account number 410.083.5651. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Beougher. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

And I will adjourn the Special Finance Committee meeting at 7:28.

Special Finance Committee

- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

(Transcribed - Susie Smith)

August 2, 2004