

MINUTES COMMITTEE MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
July 8, 2019

Ward 2 Councilmember Brett Luzader called the meeting to order at 8:11 PM

Call to Order - Roll Call

PRESENT: Luzader, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

ABSENT:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

a. Public Service and Transportation Committee – Committee Meeting – June 24, 2019

RESULT: ACCEPTED

NEW LEGISLATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: AMENDING CHAPTER 174 PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. --- Luzader. Public Service and Transportation Committee.

Mr. Bowsher: Thank you Chairman Luzader, other members of Council. Chapter 174 procedure basically talks about the design professionals and how we bid out our City Engineer services here within the City, currently we are on a two year cycle. That sort of limits a lot of the things we can do. And we constantly have new bids having to come in every two years and puts a damper on some of the projects. And as you may or not know, when we start talking with our current engineer service EMH&T, we will start a project and then we will also have to move into the next years project to continue the Street Program. When your having to have them resubmit bids and have other people come out and spend, it's pretty expensive process and it puts a damper on sort o the program. So this ask, is to clean up some of the language in that's in there as well as the larger changes to change to change it from two years to four years so we would rebid every four years for a new contract. It would also take for a primary and a secondary City Engineer and design professionals.

Mr. Luzader: Do we have any examples of where we have had problems, specifically of going from one year to the next year?

Mr. Bowsher: The good thing that we have a pretty steady stream of EMH&T consistently being our City Engineer for a long standing time, almost about 40 years. During that process we do it every two years, its costing them about \$35,000.00 additional dollars that's to them that they could be potentially passing on services for other services that we have that we want to be able to do to the City. I think its a good way for us to pay back these engineering services that they utilize their time and their resources to create these. Pretty much across the board in different municipalities, some of them have an open ended contract like Whitehall and they will just end when they want to. Grove

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City goes on a four year process as well as Bexley. So for this, its to put us in line with most other municipalities and it makes sure we have a steady flow. So right now were at the end of our EMH&T contract as well as the other two alternatives, CT Consultants and American Structure Point. What happens is, is if this goes out to bid this year, which it will, regardless because we need to renew the contract. Right now were working on the 2020 Street Program and actually the next thing down there we talk about a piece of the 2020 Street Program. We are already working with already our City Engineer. Imagine come into the future in two years, now we don't have that same City Engineer and they have already started the work. Now we are basically punting and having to go with a different firm in the midst of a lot of projects. It makes more sense, more logical sense for the City to move to a four year program and continue that there after.

Mr. Luzader: You could conceivably end up with the same problem four years from now.

Mr. Bowsher: Potentially but for those three years it would be more beneficial.

Ms. Bryant: You mentioned that Whitehall has an opened ended contract, did you have an opportunity perhaps how long they have been on that contract, how its working out for them?

Mr. Bowsher: Yea they actually utilize EMH&T as well as their primary. They have been on that for about 12 years, he mentioned they have a revolving contract, they just basically pull the plug if they would like to and then they would have to go and rebid out, but they do have a year to year contract that is basically just renewed, they don't have to bid out another process. And that works fine for them but working with some of the, and sort of gaining the experience from some of the other communities, it kind of leaves the transparency off it and I think we need to continue that bid process but we just to make sure we are extending it and be honest with the City as well as faithful to the services that were provided from these engineering firms.

Ms. Bryant: You said it effects transparency how so?

Mr. Bowsher: Because at that point basically, I am not saying that this happening in Whitehall, I don't want to be painted in a picture but it potentially could be skewed as you are basically giving favors to that engineering firm if your leaving open ended and your not, you know rebidding and giving other engineering firms the opportunity to come in at potentially a lower bid to offer the same services. We don't want to get in to the process of over paying for services that we could be getting at a much reasonable price.

Ms. Bryant: I understand that but I guess my question would be given the fact that there will be a new administration in 6 more months, does it really makes sense to tie the new administration to a four year contract?

Mr. Bowsher: I am not understanding what the administration would have to do with the bidding process?

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Ms. Bryant: Well the, you know it may not be what the administration wants at that point and then they have got three and half years of a contract that, perhaps they'd rather now have.

Mr. Bowsher: I think that's a good conversation for you to be had amongst yourselves.

Ms. Bryant: Ok.

Mr. Hood: Our contract will all of our engineers have a 90 day out with the City at no penalty. So we pay them the amount of money that they have earned up to their 90 day notice period, you give them three months and we could cancel any contract we... The other thing I want to make sure that's real clear to the Council that, this isn't a compete bid situation. Its a quality based selection process, we don't hire the cheapest engineering firm or architecture firm or design firm. We ask for proposals and they submit lengthy documents with all of their experience and their expertise a committee of made up of administration and Council evaluates them, they come with whom they believe is the best company and the Mayor enters into contract negotiations with them. And at that point we talk about pricing, so that's done until we have actually selected the firm that we are going to contract with. So its a little bit different than competitive bidding.

Ms. Bryant: Thank you.

Mr. Baker: I mean I kind of like the current format of every two years because it kind of gives it a mid contract review per se, if your not happy with what they are doing you don't have to suffer for another two years until that contracts over. I mean the two years kind of to me personally gives it a chance for a review than it does if you have to suffer out for four years. Not saying they've done a bad job or anything its just, that's just ffrom me.

Mr. Luzader: I think MR. Hood just answered that, I mean we have a 90 day out.

Mr. Baker: Yea, its a 90 day from when that is signed correct?

Mr. Luzader: When ever we decide to cancel the contract.

Mr. Bowsher: The 90 days is for the, basically were giving them 90 days to end the contract, so its not from the end of the contract. Its like saying if I am going to hire Mr. Baker on a four year term and within that two years I want out of our contract, I will give you 90 days.

Mr. Baker: Ok, that part I did not understand. Ok.

Mr. Clemens: Yes, I can understand why on the change but this is something that we've been doing for the last 10, 20 years and it has worked. The Mayor gets a chance to look through after what Council has picked and decide to work out contracts with them. I think everybody sitting here has went through the process of picking engineers. I cant see why you want to change really. I can understand why you want to but for the City I cant understand why we would want to change. Its worked fine, you have admitted that yourself that we haven't had that much problem. Maybe were

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doing too many things at the same time, maybe we should slow down a little bit on what we are doing, I don't know. But I don't see of any problem we have had. So as far as I am concerned I don't see a reason to change.

Mr. Luzader: I can understand you know a little bit of both sides. I am also inclined to agree with Mr. Clemens. I cant see where we have had a big issue and I think we have been doing this like you said, I know for as far back as I can remember. I mean I also remember a number of years ago when we actually started this process. Is because we were actually being in my opinion, kind of taken for granted with the engineering firms that we were using at the time. That's part of the reason we went to a two year contract.

Mr. Bowsher: The good thing with this is, is one, some of these changes needed to be changed. For one, they weren't including all of the City engineering services that we currently ask. We don't have the City engineering on staff.

Mr. Luzader: Yea, and I don't have a problem with a lot of those.

Mr. Bowsher: In addition, when we discussed this, this was not done you know, cold heartedly. This was not just thrown together. This was a conversation we had with the Street Superintendent, myself and the Mayor. And we came to agreement that we thought moving to a four year contract term would make it in the best interest in the City so we are not constantly having to renew the contract. And it also makes it better for a long term deal and organization with protects. Projects do not go on a typical 12 month cycle. From January to December. You know, they go over those time, and it would make sense to keep that same engineering firm on as long as we possibly can but still keeping transparent and then keeping that year, that out after the four years. I think at this point still with what Mr. Hood was talking about, you still have the 90 days if for whatever reason you would not like them. In addition, it does give the ability for alternative. Which we would still like to bring on. Currently right now, as I had said CT Consultants and American Structure Point and then EMH&T as the primary. Whoever that would be, regardless were having to bid it out this year.

Mr. Skinner: Thank you Mr. Luzader. Just one comment, moving it to four years as was pointed out earlier, would save the company \$35, 000.00 you said?

Mr. Bowsher: Yes.

Mr. Skinner: Which would in turn, in theory in normal economic and business practices, when a company saves costs they pass those savings along to their customers. And my thought on that, the City will eventually then reap the benefits of lower or consistent cost as the economy continues to grow and prices continue to raise.

Mr. Clemens: Yea, you know these things are sent to us and right now we got to do this, we ought to jump on this. What do you say we hold this in committee and give them a chance to think about it.

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Mr. Luzader: Well actually I was going to say I am not going to guarantee we will pass it as an emergency. But I will make the motion that we send it onto Council for a first reading tonight that way we can keep the process rolling. I mean I can understand that you want to try get something done before we take out August break. But this is something I think we need to take a close look at and make sure we are all happy with it.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 7/8/2019 7:35 PM
SECONDER:	Caleb Skinner, Ward 1 Councilmember	
AYES:	Luzader, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EMH&T TO CONDUCT SURVEYING, DESIGN ENGINEERING & BIDDING SERVICES FOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO DAVIDSON ROAD; APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE. --- Luzader. Public Service and Transportation Committee.

Mr. Luzader: Before we go any further, that's Davidson Drive.

Mr. Bowsher: Thank you Chairman Luzader. So Davidson Drive was selected as the road, the main road that we would be redoing within the 2020 Street Program. This is to provide surveying and engineering design and bid specs from EMH&T. The proposed improvements would include a full redo of Davidson Drive all the way down to gravel, rebuilding it, multi use path along the east side in front of the community center all the way to Huber Park. In addition, it would be decorative street lighting, storm water management. It would include bioswales. In addition of street trees and on street parking to add for additional flow for the growing businesses within the area. Encompassing that closer, its sort of an old Reynoldsburg tying those two together and then eventually also, widening the road as well. So this is 146 thousand for the design and engineering of it, which would like to be completed on. And I would say we are ahead which is great. This is going to put this ahead so we can actually get the first to bid and actually get our road completed during the summer time as normally promised. So its really important that we get this and keep moving forward on it.

Mr. Luzader: I only have one question, and its something I have had concerns with, ever since my days back with the street department when we started, should I said we started allowing the developers to plant trees between the sidewalks and the curbs. And that is the roots from the trees have a tendency to go and raise up the walking paths, this and that and everything else. Is there, and the design shows them in between the sidewalk and...

Mr. Bowsher: Absolutely, and its called using the proper trees to plant within those tree lines.

Mr. Luzader: And I know at the time we had a tree commission that actually existed but that's gone by the wayside.

Mr. Bowsher: You definitely want deep growing roots, luckily we have a master arborist who can help us select the right species of trees that we could go and put in there that would be adequate for those areas.

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Mr. Luzader: Like I said that's one of my real big concern when I see those plans.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 7/8/2019 7:35 PM
MOVER:	Brett Luzader, Ward 2 Councilmember	
SECONDER:	Kristin Bryant, At-Large Councilmember	
AYES:	Luzader, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EMH&T TO CONDUCT SURVEYING, DESIGN STORMWATER INVESTIGATION STUDIES AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS; APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE. --- Luzader. Public Service and Transportation Committee.

Mr. Bowsher: Thank you Chairman Luzader, members of Council. If your backyards and your basements haven't already told you, this is the second wettest year that we have had on record. This study is going to investigate and determine some of the reasons and possible solutions we can address to fix some of the stormwater floodings that we have. Basically, we are going to target Hentz Drive and also Broadwyn Drive. These are some of the older neighborhoods that we have within the City of Reynoldsburg. If we can locate and adequately come to sort of engineering feed that could basically prevent excess stormwater, run off and drainage, then we could implement that into other neighborhoods through out the City of Reynoldsburg. So EMH&T for 36 thousand will investigate, do this study, we will take a look it and then we will think about possible rehabilitation strategies that area and then other areas within the City.

Mr. Luzader: And these monies are coming out of the Stormwater Fund?

Mr. Bowsher: Absolutely.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 7/8/2019 7:35 PM
MOVER:	Brett Luzader, Ward 2 Councilmember	
SECONDER:	Kristin Bryant, At-Large Councilmember	
AYES:	Luzader, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO CERTIFY NUISANCE COSTS (2018) FOR COLLECTION BY THE LICKING COUNTY AUDITOR; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. --- Luzader. Public Service and Transportation Committee.

Mr. Bowsher: Thank you Chairman Luzader this is from our code enforcement division. Franklin County we had issued 115 violations that we did send on to get cut by services of J and J landscaping services. It was a totally of \$26,400.00 that would be assessed on the property taxes of those individuals and this is what that is for.

Mr. Luzader: Thank you. I don't have a problem with this per se. I do have one question and it might be more for the City Attorney, is are these costs that we are charging adequate. Or can we increase them? Because I noticed a number on there, they are basically using the City as a lawn service.

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Mr. Hood: They cannot be punitive, that's the first. We have to recoup our cost and no other. I know we paid, we charge an administrative fee because of the man power hours it takes not only to do the enforcement but also collect, an attempt to collect money that is owed to the City. But whether or not we are dollar for dollar, that's not something I can answer for you Mr. Luzader, but we looked at this years ago when we first began to do this, the research was very clear because we were doing this administratively, it cannot be punitive in any way. Which means it cannot be more than what it actually costs the City.

Mr. Luzader: That's something we might take a look at and make sure that, at least we are covering all of our cost. Because like I said, I know some of them like I said are just using the City as a mowing service.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 7/8/2019 7:35 PM
MOVER:	Brett Luzader, Ward 2 Councilmember	
SECONDER:	Kristin Bryant, At-Large Councilmember	
AYES:	Luzader, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO CERTIFY NUISANCE COSTS (2018) FOR COLLECTION BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. --- Luzader. Public Service and Transportation Committee.

Mr. Baker: I just have one quick question. And I meant to ask it for the other one? Has this been an increase or is this just the same level that has been going on? I just wonder if its been an increase of people not cutting their grass and the City is having to go in. Or their trash...

Mr. Bowsher: This kind of sets back to sort of increasing the code enforcement. The numbers have actually gone down a little but because that's we need more help out there to produce more, I don't know the specific numbers off hand but I can get that for you.

Mr. Baker: Ok, thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Chairman, point of order. Both of these are for emergency adoption tonight, Franklin and Licking. Its on the agenda for emergency adoption tonight.

Mr. Bowsher: Yes.

Mr. Luzader: But its still its first reading, we will approve it as an emergency at the next meeting.

Mr. Joseph: Its for adoption tonight. Its items 9c and d under Council agenda.

Mayor McCloud: We just would like this for stand for a reading tonight.

Mr. Joseph: Ok so you want those removed, I can have those taken off, just clarifying.

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Mr. Luzader: Ok. Yea, I know as general rule we send them forward for a first reading and pass them as an emergency at the second reading. The only reason I was going that way.

Mr. Joseph: Ok, we will take them off that's just how they were listed.

Mr. Luzader: Ok.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 7/8/2019 7:35 PM
MOVER:	Brett Luzader, Ward 2 Councilmember	
SECONDER:	Kristin Bryant, At-Large Councilmember	
AYES:	Luzader, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	