

CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

*803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
www.countryside-il.org*



Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting of the INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Committee Members

**Chairman Benson
Alderman Musillami
Alderman Finn**

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Benson, Alderman Finn and Alderman Musillami

Also Present: Alderman Von Drasek, City Administrator Paul, Finance Director Schutter, Building Commissioner Wagner, Public Works Superintendent Serna, and City Engineer Fitzgerald

Absent: None

3. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC.

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 8, 2023.

4.a. Approval of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2023.

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 8, 2023 were previously distributed to the members of the Infrastructure Committee.

A motion was made by Chairman Benson to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023 meeting, seconded by Alderman Finn and motion carried unanimously.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND IF SO DETERMINED, ACTION UPON:

5.a. Consideration to award a contract for the Water Distribution System Leak Detection to M.E. Simpson in the amount of \$16,450.00

Public Works Superintendent Serna stated that the City follows the regulatory requirements of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in order to keep our water accountability to its full potential and eliminate any potential contamination to the City's drinking water. We usually do this every two years.

Chairman Benson asked for a motion to bring this to the next City Council meeting. Alderman Finn made a motion to award the contract for the Water Distribution System Leak Detection to M.E. Simpson in the amount of \$16,450.00, seconded by Alderman Musillami and the motion carried unanimously.

5.b. Consideration to approve a change in the Ordinance to increase the billing rate for bulk water to the commercial rate of \$13.16 per thousand gallons of water.

Public Works Superintendent Serna stated that currently the City charges contractors the residential rate of \$8.15 per thousand gallons. The staff is requesting to change the rate from \$8.15 per thousand gallons of water to the commercial rate of \$13.16 per thousand gallons of water.

A motion was made by Alderman Finn to approve the change in the Ordinance to increase the billing rate for bulk water to the commercial rate of \$13.16 per thousand gallons of

water and bring it to the next City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Musillami and the motion carried unanimously.

5.c. Consideration to purchase a new loader/backhoe.

Public Works Superintendent Serna stated that Public Works currently has a 2005 case loader/backhoe that has reached its life expectancy.

The staff obtained three quotes from different manufacturers under the State of Illinois contract. The staff recommends purchasing the loader/backhoe from McCann because of the height of the DPW garage door. The quote from McCann is \$114,150.00 with a trade-in value included in the amount of \$17,500.00. The amount budgeted for this loader/backhoe is \$130,000.00.

Chairman Benson asked Mr. Serna if he could wait three years to buy a new machine. Mr. Serna stated that the machine is twenty years old and he doesn't think it can last another three years.

A motion was made by Alderman Musillami to approve the purchase of a new loader/backhoe from McCann for the amount of \$114,150.00 with the trade-in value included in the amount of \$17,500.00 and bring it to the next City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Finn and the motion carried unanimously.

5.d. Consideration to approve the purchase of a new Ford F-250 4X4 in the amount of \$40,879.00 from Westfield Ford.

Public Works Superintendent Serna stated that we currently have a 2008 Ford Ranger which the mechanic/summer help use. The staff is requesting an upgrade to a full-size pickup with a plow to help with snow removal. Westfield Ford is offering us a trade-in value of \$5,500. The staff is asking the Committee to approve the purchase of a new Ford F-250 4X4 with a plow. We will have to buy the plow and the LED lights separately.

A motion was made by Alderman Finn to approve the purchase of a new Ford F-250 4X4 in the amount of \$40,879.00 with the trade-in value of \$5,500.00 for the old truck and bring it to the next City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Musillami and the motion carried unanimously.

5.e. Consideration to approve the purchase of a new western plow and LED lights from Regional Truck Equipment in the amount of \$8,335.00.

A motion was made by Alderman Finn to approve the purchase of a new western plow and LED lights from Regional Truck Equipment in the amount of \$8,335.00 and bring it to the next City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Musillami and the motion carried unanimously.

5.f. Consideration of proposed improvements to Srejma-Michalek Park.

City Administrator Paul stated that she has been in contact with Kevin Mulligan who is a member of the Pleasantview Firefighters Association. Mr. Mulligan is here with Greg Leff. They would like to propose a few improvements to Srejma-Michalek Park. This park was named after two firefighters that died fighting a fire in Countryside in 1986. The 45th anniversary is coming up in 2026 and we are hoping to have these improvements completed by then with the Committee's approval. Mr. Mulligan stated that Mr. Leff and I learned in December that the park was dedicated to the firefighters who died fighting a fire on LaGrange Road in Countryside on October 26, 1981.

The park was dedicated in their honor at some point after their death in 1981.

The Fire Department had a hand in getting the plaque installed on the fence which currently became in disrepair. It was vandalized, removed and the finish was altered a bit when it was cleaned. We learned that it was in poor condition and would like to do something to improve the park for the families who lost their sons. The families also lived in the neighborhood.

We were considering ideas on how we can improve the park. One idea was putting up an archway sign with their names on it. Another idea would be to have a stone with the two firefighter's names on it and tell their stories. We would also consider any ideas that the committee would recommend. The Pleasantview Firefighters Association can afford to pay for the sign. We would like to tell the families what we are doing but would have to have the approvals from all the levels beforehand.

Chairman Benson stated that it was a great idea and we should move forward with it.

Ms. Paul stated that this park has the oldest equipment of all the parks in Countryside. We were considering to replace the equipment with a Fire Department theme. If the committee agrees with this I'll go out and get pricing. We can put this in the following year's budget and we can look for grants.

The Infrastructure Committee agreed to move forward on the park improvements.

5.g. Discussion on dog park and review of cost estimates (will distribute at meeting).

City Engineer Fitzgerald stated that he was directed to put together some options for the dog park. Option 1 would be to remove the hockey rink and construct a new dog park at Countryside Park. The cost estimate for this is \$175,000.00. Option 2 is to look into the empty lot behind 9738/9740 58th Street. This lot is an unbuildable lot and is behind the homes. The cost estimate for this is \$160,000.00.

Chairman Benson asked Mr. Fitzgerald on Option 1 he thought at the last meeting they were just going to remove the black top and fill the hole in with earth and plant seed or sod and leaving the curbs in. If this is how we would do it what would the cost be? Mr. Fitzgerald said that would bring the cost down quite a bit. Mr. Fitzgerald asked Chairman Benson if he would want real turf or something else. Chairman Benson stated that the real turf would be too expensive. Mr. Fitzgerald said he can run a third option for the exact requirements that Chairman Benson is talking about.

Alderman Musillami asked what the cost difference would be to take the curb out or leave it in. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that taking the curb out is not very expensive. It would be about \$5,000.00 to remove the curb. Mr. Fitzgerald said that Chairman Benson's idea of leaving the stone in would save a lot of money. Mr. Musillami asked what the size difference is between Option 1 and Option 2. Mr. Fitzgerald said they are about the same size.

City Administrator Paul said that the dogs in the park came up at the last coffee with the Mayor. The Mayor asked if the residents would be alright with dogs being in the park all year round as long as they were on a leash. The residents raised their hand and said they would be okay with this. Would this Committee be for or against this?

Chairman Benson liked the idea of the dog park and he feels we would get good use out of it. Mr. Benson spoke with some dog trainers and they stated that they would be willing to use the park. He didn't feel that he would want to open all the parks up to dogs, in case there are kids

playing and resident takes their dog off of their leash.

Chairman Benson said that we should go back and fine tune everything we discussed tonight. Some of the ideas were leaving the curbs in, taking out or grinding down the asphalt, and building up the dirt. Mr. Benson directed Mr. Fitzgerald to come back to the Committee in about one or two months, when the next meeting is. We are going to table this item until the next Infrastructure meeting. The Committee was in agreement.

5.h. Discussion of the 5 Year Paving Improvement Plan.

City Engineer Fitzgerald stated that he updated the 5 year paving improvement map. In 2023 we cancelled the paving project due to the water main on Sunset Avenue, it was pushed to the fall. In 2024 we are almost ready to go out for bidding on Sunset Avenue, 67th Street, Lorraine Drive, Rose Court, and Rose Avenue. In 2025 we are recommending Kensington (Joliet Road North), 57th Street (Kensington to LaGrange Road), Catherine Avenue (south of Lagrange Road) and Ashland. In 2026 we have to do the water main first and then do Dansher. In 2027 we have Kensington Avenue, Plainfield to 54th, Ashland, 55th to Plainfield and 6th Avenue, and 55th to Plainfield.

5.i. Discussion on 2024 CDBG application.

City Engineer Fitzgerald said that there is block grant money and is only available for certain areas. There are three areas in Countryside that qualify. The streets that would qualify are 6th Avenue from 55th Street to Plainfield. I spoke with Public Works Superintendent Serna and our recommendation is that we apply for just that area. The only other area that I would suggest would be 56th Street from LaGrange Road to East Avenue.

5.j. Consideration to amend the Ordinance Section 5-3-1 regarding abandoned vehicles.

Building Commissioner Wagner stated that we have been working with the Countryside Police Department on this section. The section now reads that inoperable vehicles cannot receive citations until a period of 30 days. After consulting with the Countryside Police Department it was decided that seven (7) days is a more appropriate window for an abandoned/inoperable vehicle.

A motion was made by Alderman Finn to amend Ordinance Section 5-3-1 regarding abandoned vehicles and bring it to the next City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Musillami and the motion carried unanimously.

5.k. Consideration to amend the Ordinance Section 3-1-12 regarding business license penalties.

Building Commissioner Wagner stated that currently if a business opens in the City and doesn't have a business license we normally just write them a citation and they go to court a month later. There is nothing in our ordinance to fine a business for opening without a business license except for a citation. The Building Department would like to add a minimum fine of \$250. This code would make it easier for staff to add a \$250 fine to their business without writing a citation.

A motion was made by Alderman Musillami to amend Ordinance Section 5-3-12 regarding business license penalties and bring it to the next City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Finn and the motion carried unanimously.

5.l. Consideration of amending Ordinance Sections 7-7-1 and 7-7-5 regarding sump pump downspout discharge.

Building Commission Wagner stated that after consulting with the City Engineer, it was suggested that we update this code. The new code clarifies that difference between sump pump discharge and gutter discharge. The distances remain the same regarding 15' from a side yard and 25' to a rear or front yard for sump pump discharge. Roof/gutter downspouts are reduced to 5'. This code also gives the City added control for public nuisances or adverse drainage impact.

A motion was made by Alderman Finn to amend Ordinance Sections 7-7-1 and 7-7-5 regarding sump pump downspout discharge and bring it to the next City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Musillami and the motion carried unanimously.

5.m. Consideration to amend the Ordinance Sections 8-14-4-7, 8-14-5-3, and 8-14-5-5 regarding crime free housing.

Building Commission Wagner stated that these code changes are from the Building Department, Police Department, and Pleasantview Fire Protection District. The changes are based on new codes adopted by the office of the State Fire Marshal and new information from the Police Department regarding evictions.

A motion was made by Alderman Finn to amend Ordinance Sections 8-14-4-7, 8-14-5-3, and 8-14-5-5 regarding crime free housing and bring it to the next City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Musillami and the motion carried unanimously.

6. OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS.

None.

7. ADJOURN.

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Musillami motioned to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Finn and motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Benson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted,

Alderman Mark Benson, Chairman

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