

City of Aurora, Ohio
SAFETY, SERVICE AND UTILITIES
MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2013

The Safety, Service and Utilities Committee of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, June 4, 2013 for the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Committee Chair James Vaca called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: James Bucks
Harold Hatridge
Fred Knop
Dennis Kovach
James Vaca
Ann Womer Benjamin

Also Present: John Trew, Service Director
Morgan Schweighoefer, Deputy Clerk of Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To amend the February 7, 2013 meeting minutes by adding “for study” regarding the Beljon Petition, and correcting a typographical error.

Ms. Womer Benjamin moved; Mr. Knop seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: Approval of the February 7, 2013 meeting minutes as amended

Mr. Hatridge moved; Mr. Knop seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Road Dedication for Phase 4B-Hawthorn of Aurora

Mr. Trew said he is waiting to hear back on some final items from the engineer.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

Mr. Kovach moved; Mr. Knop seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

AYES: Bucks, Hatridge, Knop, Kovach, Vaca, Womer Benjamin

NAYES: none

OLD BUSINESS

Beljon Water and Sewer Lines Petition

Mr. Trew stated that the city cannot start developing properties. He said there are no capital resources to do this. He remarked that it is not the city’s fiscal responsibility to bond the project.

Mr. Trew stated the Beljons are asking the city to finance the extension of water and sewer lines through a bond. He said that this is not what the city does; the developer pays for it and completes it and the city assesses it.

Mr. Hatridge asked if the Beljons want the city to build the extension of water and sewer and then have it assessed. Mr. Trew explained that the city does not have the finances to do such a project, and it would have to be bonded.

Mr. Terry Kane of Ravenna introduced himself as the attorney representing the Beljons. He said he has assisted in the preparation of the petition. He said it is not practical for the owner to put in time to the extension, and said the cost will include the planning, design work, and everything else. He explained it was his understanding that the financing for these lots would be available through issuance of municipal bonds and the cost and expenses for the city and arrangements would be assessed to the owners. He explained how the expenses are set up via issuance of a bond financed by annual assessments paid off in twenty years.

Mr. Trew stated that in the past, individual lot owners do it and finance it themselves. He said the owner contracts someone themselves for the work, and after the project is complete, the city will inspect it to make sure it meets criteria. He stated that bonds were used for occupied properties in the past, and there is a whole quadrant of the city with no water and sewer lines that are unimproved lots. He asked if the city was ready to provide that to everyone.

Mr. Bob Beljon, Pioneer Trail, added that Eldridge Road and Pioneer Trail were done similarly in the past. He stated there was a Resolution in the 1970s that allowed for this. He also added that Cochran Road had a similar procedure.

Mr. Knop asked Mr. Vaca how the sewer and water lines came into the Geauga Lake area. Mr. Vaca explained the bond issue that was voted in by the residents in the 1960s. He said in this case, only five lots are being discussed.

Mr. Beljon explained how the sewers are gravity fed to manholes between certain lots.

Mr. Vaca said he does not find it wise to take out a twenty year bond for five lots. Mr. Vaca said the city is not in the business to develop property, the builder is. He said it is not the city's responsibility to develop or to make sure a profit is made, but to make sure it is installed correctly.

Mr. Bucks explained that the city would have these properties and would have to try to collect the money out of them if Beljon LLC went bankrupt. Mr. Vaca compared this to a similar situation that occurred on Bank Street.

Mr. Kovach suggested that nothing is done until the Law Director can review it. He said as a member of the Finance Committee, he cannot approve of this now. He stated there are too many questions remaining.

MOTION: To postpone pending Law Department Review

Ms. Womer Benjamin moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Survey of Streetlight Installation Interest – Robinhood and Sherwood Drives

Mr. Trew said that there was a survey sent out to residents on Sherwood Drive and Robinhood Drive. He said out of 52 that responded, 31 were in favor of streetlights and 21 were not. He explained that he felt the survey was flawed and more examination needs to be done.

Mr. Vaca explained that he is satisfied with the fact that over half of the respondents were in favor of streetlights.

Mr. Kovach asked what prompted the discussion of streetlights. Mr. Vaca said some residents had spoken with him and their issue was with the darkness at night.

Mr. Kovach said there are dark areas all over the city, but that will not prevent speeding. He suggested sending out certified letters.

Mr. Vaca explained that the Mayor had put out a wish list for items Council members would like addressed and he had submitted the streetlight proposal for Sherwood and Robinhood Drives. He stated he had spoken to residents on Sherwood Drive and they would like streetlights.

Mr. Kovach suggested checking with the Mayor to see if finances are still available.

Mr. Hatridge said he is in favor of safety, but does not think it will deter speeders. He said he is concerned that this project would open up all the wards for streetlights. He said he moved to Aurora because he enjoyed being able to see the sky at night.

Ms. Womer Benjamin said she believes that the vote is sufficient to indicate that a majority of those who responded support streetlights, but is unsure if she thinks sending out certified letters and spending more money is necessary. She suggested checking the finances and if the Mayor is still entertaining the option. Mr. Vaca agreed.

Mr. Knop said he had expected to see residents from Robinhood and Sherwood Drives at the meeting. He said he is in favor of postponing the issue.

MOTION: To postpone

Mr. Bucks moved; Mr. Knop seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Traffic Lights on St. Rt. 43

Mr. Trew said the city engineer has not returned information regarding traffic light report.

MOTION: To postpone

Mr. Kovach moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Vaca asked about berming on Crackel Road, noting that some of it is completely gone. Mr. Trew said it is not complete, and rainfall has loosened much of it. He said it needs repair all over the city.

Mr. Vaca suggested a stop bar be painted at Moneta Ave. He said people are stopping in the middle of the intersection. He also commented that the bushes around intersections are getting high and it is hard to see around them. Mr. Trew said the residents take care of it and letters are sent out.

Mr. Bucks asked if the city is in charge of the ash tree removal. Mr. Trew said that was being done under the direction of Courtney Schumm, the city arborist. Mr. Knop said he has several trees on his property marked for removal, and asked if there was any way he could donate the trees to a reforestation area where they can continue to grow. Mr. Trew suggested he call Ms. Schumm and discuss it with her.

Mr. Bucks said there is a speed bump on Eggleston Road where the new pavement stops, leaving a bunch of debris on his property. Mr. Trew said he would like to start road paving in August, and Eggleston Road will be redone.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn

Mr. Bucks moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

James Vaca, Committee Chair

Morgan Schweighofer, Secretary