

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 4, 2010
CALLED TO ORDER: 5:31 p.m.
ADJOURNED: 6:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Mike Speedy, Chairman
Ginny Cain
Brian Mahern
Dane Mahern
Angela Mansfield
Janice McHenry
Mary Moriarty Adams
Christine Scales

ABSENT MEMBERS

Benjamin Hunter

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 69, 2010 - authorizes a traffic signal at the intersection of Washington Street and California Street (Districts 15 and 19)

"Do Pass" 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 70, 2010 - authorizes a change in parking and manner of parking on Milburn Street between 14th Street and Indiana Avenue (District 15)

"Do Pass" 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 71, 2010 - approves the issuance of one or more series of Indiana Waterworks District Net Revenue Bonds or notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1.2 million to fund special main extension projects to serve unserved areas by funding through the State Revolving Loan Fund

"Tabled" 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 72, 2010 - amends the Code to make technical corrections and clarify provisions as a result of the excluded City of Beech Grove having exercised its statutory right to withdraw from the Marion County Stormwater Management District

"Do Pass as Amended" 8-0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, March 4, 2010. Chairman Mike Speedy called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. with the following members present: Ginny Cain, Brian Mahern, Dane Mahern, Janice McHenry, and Christine Scales. Angela Mansfield and Mary Moriarty Adams arrived shortly thereafter. Absent was Ben Hunter.

Chairman Speedy asked David Sherman, Director, Department of Public Works (DPW) to give a briefing on what happened at the latest infrastructure meeting.

Director Sherman stated that, during the last two years, they have been looking at the condition of city streets, roads and sidewalks. A public commission was put together, and they were given a briefing regarding water waste and water sanitation and where the city is going to go with those. He stated that they also put out a request for expression of interest, trying to come up with some great ideas. He stated that 23 or 24 companies submitted, and they are down to about nine. He stated that out of the nine, they looked at ways that they have been successful, from programming management to design build. From that, the Commission looked at things that are legal to do in this state, because there are some challenges with legislation on design builds. Director Sherman stated that the biggest mission was trying to find out solutions to fix the streets and lower the rates. He stated that they have worked pretty hard the last year looking at things that have been done, and one of the biggest things is the Mayor Greg Ballard's statement wanting to keep control locally as best as possible. He stated that they are trying to figure out how to get synergies. He stated that there is still the issue of how not to raise taxes, and there are several alternatives. One is the possibility of consolidating the two operators that DPW currently has and manage it possibly by creating a not-for-profit. The other is to look at outsourcing and obtaining private monies. He stated that they also looked at what a possible relationship with Citizens Gas Company, and Colorado Springs is a good model to do research. He stated that they are waiting on Mayor Ballard and the Commission to give them more feedback after the last public hearing. He stated that they will be making some decisions in the next few weeks and he feels that there is money to be saved and invested into our city. He stated that there were some really good ideas on how to restructure some financing. He stated that the residents in this city understand the condition of the city, and know that taxes can-not be raised. He stated that they are going to do the fixes and the preventive and corrective maintenance to save some funds.

Councilor Mansfield stated that she is looking forward to getting more information on the financial end of what is being proposed and how those dollars and figures will play out. She stated that a couple of Councillors had a meeting with some administration officials earlier in the week and got a totally different explanation of what she received yesterday. She stated that she is concerned that one of the commissioners kept referring to Citizens as a city agency, and when a Councillor pointed out that the city has no board appointments to Citizens and do not review their budget or set their priorities, the commissioner was a bit dumbfounded. She said it concerns her that

commissioners are making recommendations and do not even have a solid grasp of the facts as things exist now. She stated that she is concerned about giving up local control. Councillor Mansfield said, as Councilors who are aware of the things going on in their district such as areas that still have septic systems with sewage problems and limited loads of laundry and as much as the districts may need sidewalks, the Councillor would not be able to determine what the priority is in their district.

Director Sherman stated that the numbers are really important, and they have state revolving loan funding (SRF) that is very complex, because there are certain ways that they are done. The city does things based on having all the money available from that group and pay a low interest rate. Now there are new requirements to use the money, which could cost them an additional 10 to 15 percent. He stated that they look at all the alternatives to make sure that they are comparing apples to apples and oranges to oranges. Director Sherman stated that they have a very dictated consent decree that says they shall bill things by a certain time. They have determined that they still get the 97% and 95% removal and have smaller volumes, that way they have more competition in building it. He stated that the trust is a non-for-profit charity trust established by the city, which means there are no profits or margins, and they are going to have to try follow two things; the need for water and a preserve. He stated that the decision is not his to make, it is the decision of Mayor Ballard, and it has not been made as of yet.

Councillor B. Mahern stated that there is information and activity that has not been shared with the committee that are conflicting, inconsistent and contradictory messages given by the administration in public meetings and emails. He stated that he feels that there are some serious concerns that are valid and as they move forward, there may be a time to discuss in greater detail what Councilor Mansfield has eluded to. If nothing else, it will be the very beginning of the process as far as the Council is concerned with whatever recommendation is made by the administration.

Chairman Speedy stated that he shares the concerns expressed by Councillor B Mahern and stated that he appreciates the director taking time to share what he has. He stated that he expects a proposal at some point when this is concluded. He said he is sure that there will be a very elaborate process from the administration to the public and to the Council.

Councillor Mansfield stated that it was announced at the March 3, 2010 meeting that the recommendation is to be made by March 19, 2010.

Chairman Speedy stated that there was public hearing on the infrastructure commission on March 3, 2010. It was recorded and is available to be viewed on-line.

Councillor Moriarty Adams stated that it is her understanding that once something is introduced, public hearings will still be held on it. Chairman Speedy stated that he anticipates more public meetings.

Director Sherman stated that since he runs the Department of Public Works, he knows that the decision has not been made. He stated that he takes a lot of pride in working with the Council, and he just wanted to make sure that they heard about the things that were distributed. Councillor Cain stated that she found it to be a fascinating process and thinks it is exciting that everything is available on-line. She feels that it has been very open and the meeting was well-attended. She stated that she feels that they are really thinking outside the box and trying to look at all the scenarios to pick the right ones. She said that she is glad to be a part of it.

PROPOSAL NO. 69, 2010 - authorizes a traffic signal at the intersection of Washington Street and California Street (Districts 15 and 19)

Nathan Sheets, Senior Project Manager, DPW, stated that California Street is the first block west of West Street, the driveway to the Eiteljorg Museum, and they are recommending that a pedestrian activated traffic signal be installed at that location.

Councillor D. Mahern stated that this is in his district and he is supportive of the proposal, but he wants to make sure that the hotel knows. He said going forward on something this complex, he would hope that they would receive more of a heads-up and more input into the decisions. He stated that there have been discussions for a long period of time with a major company, about what was going to go in the spot, and for the Council to be under the guidelines of having to support a proposal, have it introduced and voted on within three or four weeks, is a bit alarming. He stated that he feels that it is a good idea, but would have liked to had more time so that the committee could have had more input and a chance to have had held public meetings within their districts to inform people of why the proposal is being done.

Councillor McHenry asked if this is pedestrian-activated. Mr. Sheets answered in the affirmative. He stated that prior to the development there was a lot of pedestrian activity and with the new development, there will be an increase in activities. He said he feels that the pedestrian crossing will be the safest way to get people across and the push buttons will minimize any impacts to vehicular traffic.

Councillor Cain moved, seconded by Councillor D. Mahern, to send Proposal No. 69, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 70, 2010 - authorizes a change in parking and manner of parking on Milburn Street between 14th Street and Indiana Avenue (District 15)

Mr. Sheets stated that this proposal establishes angle parking on Milburn Street. This is part of an upcoming development for Indiana University Purdue University housing and will increase the amount of parking.

Councillor D. Mahern asked how many additional parking spots this will add. Mr. Sheets answered about 40 to 45 spots, and he feels that they will be tripling the amount of parking there at this time. Chairman Speedy asked if there would be public parking spaces. Mr. Sheets stated that the parking will be located within the public right-a-way, and there has been discussion of potentially putting in meters in the future.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor D. Mahern, to send Proposal No. 70, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 71, 2010 - approves the issuance of one or more series of Indiana Waterworks District Net Revenue Bonds or notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1.2 million to fund special main extension projects to serve unserved areas by funding through the State Revolving Loan Fund

Jeff Roeder, Assistant Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, asked for the Council to consider tabling this proposal, due to them finding a legal question that may allow them to do this project faster and cheaper. He said they would like to fully explore the option before moving forward with this proposal.

Chairman Speedy stated that tabling this proposal would take a majority vote to un-table the proposal, and without a date certain, it would stay on the agenda for up to six months. If nothing happens, it will function as a withdrawal.

Councillor Mansfield asked if Mr. Sheets has an idea as to how long it would take to work out those details. Mr. Roeder stated that he does not.

Councillor McHenry moved, seconded by Councillor Cain, to "Table" Proposal No. 71, 2010. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 72, 2010 - amends the Code to make technical corrections and clarify provisions as a result of the excluded City of Beech Grove having exercised its statutory right to withdraw from the Marion County Stormwater Management District

Dennis Papenmeier, Executive Assistant, DPW, stated that since Beech Grove did exercise their right to withdraw in 2006, there are changes that need to be made to this ordinance. They want to make sure that what they are doing is going to be opening the book, and making all the changes that need to be made to the ordinance at that time.

Chairman Speedy stated that the election by the City of Beech Grove happened a few years ago, and clarified that they are just now cleaning up the City Code to reflect that. He asked were there any other changes that are noteworthy with respect to the Technical Advisory Board. Mr. Papenmeier stated that some of the additional language that is being modified in the ordinance deals purely with some administrative things that are not relative today, since the board is fully in existence. He stated that there is also a request from his staff to take a look at sub-section (b) of Section 261-502, which

discusses the membership make-up in terms of the township. There was a limitation on the number of board members that could exist per township. He stated that because of the nature of this board, being a technical board, the township aspect of limiting the number of people per township was a hindrance in terms of finding qualified members to sit on the board. Chairman Speedy clarified that Mr. Papenmeier is asking for a friendly amendment to strike Section 261-502, subsection (b)

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Scales, to technically "Amend" proposal No. 72, 2010, as requested by Mr. Papenmeier. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Scales, to send Proposal No. 72, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Works Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Speedy, Chair

Public Works Committee

MS/klh

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