

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: June 17, 2010
CALLED TO ORDER: 5:32 p.m.
ADJOURNED: 6:13 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

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

ABSENT MEMBERS

AGENDA

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
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 153, 2010 - designates 22nd Street, from Capitol Avenue to College Avenue, as the Bishop Morris E. Golder Memorial Way
"Amended and Postponed until July 15, 2010" Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 173, 2010 - authorizes a 4-way stop at the intersection of Noel Road and 79th Street (District 1)
"Do Pass" Vote: 9-0

Public Works Committee

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, June 17, 2010. Chairman Mike Speedy called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with the following members present: Ginny Cain, Ben Hunter, Brian Mahern, Dane Mahern, Angela Mansfield, Janice McHenry, Mary Moriarty Adams and Christine Scales.

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

Brenda Horn, Bond Counsel for Ice Miller, said that the state revolving fund has grants available for projects of this nature, but they are structured as forgivable loans. She stated that they are hoping to receive a grant that will cover 60% of their entire project cost for the unserved areas, but that they have to get approval from the Council for the loan amount that will be forgiven upon completion of the project.

Councillor Moriarty Adams asked what the special extension projects are. Matt Klein, Department of Waterworks, Executive Director, stated that there are three separate but interrelated water main extension projects to bring water into neighborhoods. He stated that two of the projects are in Pike Township and the other is on the south side. Councillor Moriarty Adams asked how they are currently getting their water. Mr. Klein stated that they are using wells.

Councillor Cain asked in light of the transaction being negotiated between Citizen's Gas and the Water Company, if this is something that Citizen's would be okay with. Ms. Horn stated that Citizen's is aware that they are seeking this grant at this time.

Chairman Speedy asked if this is approved, when the project would be started and completed. Mr. Klein stated that they should be started within the next 90 to 120 days. He stated that they are in the process of going through the public bidding process under Title 36, and they hope to have a bid approved by the Board of Waterworks at their July 15th meeting. Chairman Speedy asked why it had been on the agenda and then taken off. Mr. Klein stated that they wanted to move through the Board of Waterwork's process, and get their approval before seeking approval from the Council.

Councillor McHenry stated that she noticed that the packets they received indicate two different dates, and asked the difference between the two. Mr. Klein stated that he is not sure what she is looking at but suspects that one is a declaratory resolution and the other is a confirmatory resolution. Ms. Horn stated that they have to adopt a preliminary resolution that starts the process and then they have to have a declaratory and a confirmatory resolution on the projects themselves and appropriation resolution.

Councilor Scales asked when the proposal was put on the agenda for today's meeting. She stated that with something of this amount, she would like to have more time to look at and ask questions. Chairman Speedy stated that it was added by decision of the chair within the last week, and he thought that he had asked staff to distribute it earlier than today. He stated that the gist of the proposal is that it is a loan from the state, but is a forgivable loan that functions as a grant. He stated that they are simply approving the access to what he would consider a grant in order for the Waterworks department to use the money for these two projects.

Councillor B. Mahern asked if the appropriations have been made and if the monies are available. Ms. Horn stated that there are remaining bond proceeds from the 2007 bond issuance, and they are going to use that to fund the remaining 40%. Councillor B. Mahern asked if the Board of Waterworks has appropriated those funds. Ms. Horn answered in the affirmative. Chairman Speedy asked if the projects are over \$2 million together. Mr. Klein stated that the project will not be more than \$1.2 million. Ms. Horn stated that the grant portion will probably be only \$800,000, but because they were not sure of that when they asked for the initial approval, they included the full project cost. Chairman Speedy clarified that the amount received from the state will be less than the \$1.2 million. Ms. Horn concurred and said that, it will be 60% of the actual project cost. Mr. Klein stated that they believe that the total project cost will be well below the \$1.2 million.

Councilor Mansfield urged Councillors to support this proposal because it will assist her constituents, as well as others, to get on to the water system.

Councillor McHenry asked how many homes and businesses this will affect. Mr. Klein stated that he does not have the exact figures in front of him, but feels that collectively with the three projects; there is the opportunity for everyone that is a homeowner, which lives up and down the street where the water will go, to pay to connect to the water system. He stated that they would love to bring water to every house. He stated that he believes that over a period of time, there will be families and homeowners that will elect to connect to the system, but they will have to pay for that. Councillor McHenry asked if there is possibly a ball park figure of how many homes this could affect. Mr. Klein stated that he could provide that to her at a later time.

Chairman Speedy asked if connection is required by homeowners. Mr. Klein stated that connection is clearly voluntary. He stated that there are parts of town that are not on the water system; they are on wells and septic. He stated that they are trying to identify those areas and, as they have the funds, move in and find communities and neighborhoods that are not just demanding water, but perhaps may have an issue with environmental contamination or foul tasting water. Chairman Speedy asked if a homeowner wants to connect, if their fee is strictly the connection fee. Mr. Klein stated that there are additional fees that they will have to pay, including paying their share of cost for the main to be put in. He stated that the federal government has provided them with 60% of the cost to putting in new mains so that they will not be shouldered by these homeowners.

Councillor D. Mahern asked what would have taken place if the Board of Waterworks had been dissolved as planned and how they would be addressing this at this time. Mr. Klein stated that if he is referring to the proposed resolution to dissolve the Board of Waterworks and move the Department of Waterworks under the Board of Public Works, then they would have had the Board of Public Works consider these resolutions.

Councillor Scales asked what went into the process to determine which neighborhoods would be the recipient of this. She asked if there was already a demand on behalf of the residents to bring water to the area, so that they can be sure that a certain good percentage of the people will actually hook up to the system. Mr. Klein stated that this process started before he arrived at the Department of Waterworks, and he gave credit to Veolla water for carrying the "water" on this. He stated that when word came out that there was going to be stimulus money coming to Indiana, they assembled a number of different projects to put before the State Revolving Fund, to be looked at and put on a project list to be selected for funding. Mr. Klein stated that they were based on demand and need, and this was not a random process. He stated that there are several projects to be funded, but they are very expensive. Because they have limited funds, they have to dedicate those funds to the communities with the greatest need. Chairman Speedy asked if the stimulus funds came from the federal government to the state. Mr. Klein answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Mansfield, to send Proposal No. 71, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 153, 2010 - designates 22nd Street, from Capitol Avenue to College Avenue, as the Bishop Morris E. Golder Memorial Way

Councillor Hunter stated that he has a motion to "Amend" Proposal No.153, 2010 (attached as Exhibit A).

Councillor D. Mahern asked what the approximate cost to do something like this is. Nathan Sheets, Department of Public Works, Project Manager, stated that it would cost approximately \$50 per sign.

Councillor B. Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams to "Amend" Proposal No. 153, 2010. The motion carried by a vote of 8-1, with Councillor Mansfield casting the negative vote.

Councillor Mansfield stated that typically to get this designation, someone would have to make contributions to the city at large. She stated that her understanding is that they are recognizing Bishop Golder for being a spiritual leader of a church. She is concerned with the kind of precedent the Council is setting, because it seems that every spiritual leader who passes is ending up with memorial ways all over the place. She stated that that does not seem like a good precedent to set.

Chairman Speedy asked Mr. Sheets if the Department of Public Works has a written designation policy. Mr. Sheets stated that he does not know how common this process actually is.

Councillor Cain asked if it is normally a "veteran" that gets memorialized. Mr. Sheets stated that there are locations throughout the city that have these memorial ways established.

Chairman Speedy asked if there is a catalog of designations. Mr. Sheets stated that he does not think that DPW maintains an official catalog.

Councillor Scales stated that she does not have a problem with anybody of a spiritual nature being designated. She stated that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King has a lot of streets and government facilities named after him, and he obviously contributed a lot. She added that she does feel that this should be left for someone who has contributed significantly to the city, whereby the contributions would be known to most of the public. She stated that she feels there are many ways to honor someone who has contributed a lot, in terms of their life activity, but she is not sure they want to go down this road. She said that they should be more familiar with the person and their contributions.

Councillor Cain stated that if someone is wanting this done, surely there should be someone in attendance to tell them about what this person has done. She stated that she feels like they are kind of walking in the dark.

Councillor Hunter stated that he appreciates his colleagues, comments; he stated that he feels like they all know their individual neighborhood associations quite well. He stated that if Councillor Gray has been approached, as a Councillor, by his constituents to designate maybe four signs as a memorial, he would caution the committee to shoot something down that is not actually even renaming 22nd Street, and will not even show up on Google maps.

Councillor Cain asked why Councillor Gray is not in attendance. Councillor Hunter stated that he is not sure why he is not here, but that Councillor Gray asked if he would speak on his behalf. He stated that he has no issue with the resolution and would encourage the committee to support it.

Councillor Speedy stated that they spend a great deal of time in their Council meetings preparing special resolutions, which provides testimony where the resolution is nonbinding and inspirational. He stated that this is essentially a binding agreement for fifteen years, and they do not have nearly the testimony on the subject matter that they do on a special resolution.

Councillor McHenry stated that the area seems to be a pretty long stretch of road. She stated that the shorter stretch would be more of a memorial to honor someone in the area where they lived or worked. She stated that she feels that there is a lot more that needs to be known about this.

Chairman Speedy asked if there is a uniform policy on street designation. Mr. Sheets stated that there is not. Chairman Speedy stated that he would rather they pursue tabling the proposal indefinitely until they hear from the sponsor and understand a little more about the proposal. He stated that this is a binding ordinance for fifteen years and that is why he is not comfortable supporting it at this time.

Councillor B. Mahern stated that he would propose that it be postponed until the next meeting, to give the sponsor the opportunity to be here.

Councillor B. Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to "Postpone" on Proposal No. 153, 2010 until July 15, 2010. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 173, 2010 - authorizes a 4-way stop at the intersection of Noel Road and 79th Street (District 1)

Nathan Sheets Department of Public Works, Project Manager, stated that this is a "T" intersection with close proximity to a bridge. He stated that due to the bridge and railing, there is a slight sight distance problem; and as a precautionary safety measure they would recommend the installation of a multi-way stop at that intersection.

Councillor Moriarty Adams asked if that is a four-way stop. Mr. Klein stated that it would be a three-way stop.

Chairman Speedy asked if Councilor Evans has been briefed and is okay with this. Mr. Klein answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Cain moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to send Proposal No. 173, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Works Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Speedy, Chair
Public Works Committee

MS/klh

