

PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Special Emergency Meeting Minutes August 22, 2023

Ald. Jeffrey presided at a special meeting of the Public Safety/Public Works Committee held at 4:30 PM on August 22, 2023, at City Hall at One City Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Brian Doliver
Ald. Eric Warren
Ald. Fred Gee
Ald. Nancy Allaire - PSPW
Ald. William Loomis - PSPW
Ald. David Zieno
Ald. Robert D. Jeffrey - PSPW

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk Dee DuFour
Director of Human Resources Lynn Murray
DPW Superintendent Edward Pepe
Fire Chief Jan Papelino
EMO Stephen Cady
Community Development Director Erik Scrivener
City Attorney Stephanie Hanrahan
Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Media Representative: Tyler Murphy, The Evening Sun

Call to Order

The meeting of the Public Safety/Public Works Committee was called to order at 4:29 p.m. by Ald. Jeffrey

Water Main Project

Extension Request from Vacri Construction – Derrick Wilcox of Delaware Engineering reported that Vacri Construction is asking for a 45-day extension based on weather and other delays. The City Attorney denied their request based on those delay claims. Wilcox did say that there were delays of DOH and USDA approvals at the beginning of the project which delayed the Notice to Proceed and projecting the project end into the middle of October. E. Pepe stated that an official extension request was not received until August 15th when they knew they would not make the deadline prior to that. After a construction meeting, Mayor Doliver had a conversation with a Vacri representative who said the reason there was only one bid was because no one wanted the job due to the tight timeline. During the meeting they came up with 2 options. Option 1 – Vacri stops work at Beebe Ave. leaving about 30 tie-ins not completed and would be out of the DOT ROW by September 15, 2023. Option 2 – Vacri continues work to Prentice St. and be out of the DOT ROW by October 13, 2023. The DOT will need to give an extension for October 13th. DOT is committed to paving this year, however the ROW needs to be clear by October 6th. The City Attorney received an email stating that if this is not a realistic timeframe, the DOT may elect to delay paving of Broad St. until next spring. Vacri said if overtime money could be “found” then they could get done by October 6th. There was frustration expressed since the contractors have had 11 Fridays that could have been worked and the lack of urgency on the contractor’s part.

Updated Project Schedule – Ald. Jeffrey asked if the contractor has an updated project schedule or weekly work schedule if an extension is granted. Mayor Doliver said they are looking for guidance from the City. If none is received, they will end the project on August 31st due to the DOT permit ending then. D. Wilcox said the contractor will work 5 9-hour days instead of 4 10-hour days.

Ald. Jeffrey suggested adjourning to the Special Common Council meeting to continue the discussion so that the full Council can participate.

Adjournment

Ald. Loomis **moved** to adjourn at 4:42 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.