

Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

- PRESENT:** Mayor Stephanie Acri (*Chair*)
Alderman Scott Williams (*Ward 1*) ~electronically
Alderman David Parker, Jr. (*Ward 2*) ~electronically
Alderman Mike Wendt (*Ward 3*) ~electronically
Alderman Richard “Dick” Potter (*Ward 4*) ~electronically
Alderman Sam Moyer (*Ward 5*)
Alderman Kevin Schoonmaker (*Ward 6*) ~electronically
Alderman Mike Waldron (*Ward 7*)
Alderman Sonia Berg (*Alderman At-Large*) ~electronically
- ABSENT:** None.
- STAFF:** Marty Vanags, Interim City Administrator
Janine Hollembaek Parr, City Clerk
J.D. Schulte, Public Works Director
Alison Fleming, Human Resources Manager ~electronically
Eric Griffith, Parks Recreation Director ~electronically
David Rowatt, Information Technology Manager
Bryon Lear, Library Director ~electronically
Darren Gault, Chief of Police
Jeff Snyder, Fire Chief
Carol Barnes, Finance Director ~electronically
Chris Mathias, Property Management Coordinator ~electronically
- OTHERS:** Derke Price, Ancel Glink

Mayor Acri called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Approval of Remote Electronic Attendance

Alderman Moyer, seconded by Alderman Waldron, moved to approve the remote electronic attendance of Aldermen Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter, Moyer, Schoonmaker, Waldron and Berg. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter, Moyer, Schoonmaker and Waldron; nays: none.

Introduction

Fire Chief Jeff Snyder introduced Mitch Cunningham, newly appointed Fire Marshal for the Moline Fire Department, effective January 4, 2021.

Alderman Berg joined the meeting.

Proclamation

A Proclamation from Iowa Network Against Trafficking and Slavery and the Family Resources Braking Traffik Program to declare January 2021, as “Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.” Founder Maggie Tinsman addressed the Council.

Questions on the Agenda

Item #3 on the COW Agenda should be titled “Porter Brothers” not “Walter D. Laud”.

Agenda Items

1. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest to a Program Funding Agreement between the City of Moline and the Illinois Housing Development Authority for the City’s acceptance of \$250,000 in grant funding, and to do all things necessary to execute all assurances and certifications to the Illinois Housing Development Authority for the Strong Communities Program (SCP), Round 1 Grant; and authorizing the Community & Economic Development Department to begin work upon execution of the Program Funding Agreement between the City of Moline and the Illinois Housing Development Authority for the Strong Communities Program (SCP), Round 1 Grant, and to do all things necessary to implement said grant requirements. K.J. Whitley, Community Development Program Manager, stated that at the September 1, 2020, Council Meeting, the City Council approved a Resolution authorizing the Community & Economic Development Department to apply to the Illinois Housing Development Authority for a Strong Communities Program (SCP) Round 1 Grant in the amount of \$250,000. On December 18, 2020, the City received notification from IHDA that it had been awarded the full grant amount. Staff seeks Council approval to accept the grant and proceed with the closing and program implementation. A motion was made by Alderman Waldron to approve. Seconded by Alderman Moyer. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none; Alderman Berg abstained as a member of the Illinois Housing Development Authority Board.

2. A Resolution authorizing approval of Change Order #1 and final with Walter D. Laud, Inc., for Project #1336, 38th Street Reconstruction, for the amount of \$95,376.93. Joe Kuhlenbeck, Building Official, explained that staff seeks approval to make the final payment to the contractor and close out the contract. Quantity adjustments are based on final field measurements and unforeseen issues in the field. There were no records of clay service pipe coming into a section of ductile iron pipe (DIP) that the City had plans to keep. When the water main was dug, staff noticed old clay sewer laterals that had to be replaced to the property line. The Water Division replaced some water main outside of the project’s original scope. The Engineering Inspector discovered a brick storm sewer manhole within the project’s construction limits, so it was updated. The contractor removed some old storm sewer from under a pavement area that was reconstructed and purchased a casting that would normally be supplied by the City. A motion was made by Alderman Waldron to approve. Seconded by Alderman Moyer. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none.

3. A Resolution authorizing approval of Change Order #1 and final with Porter Brothers Asphalt & Sealing, Inc., for Project #1337, 11th Street Reconstruction, for the amount of \$22,563.03. Joe Kuhlenbeck, Building Official, indicated that City staff seeks approval to make the final payment to the contractor and close out the contract. Quantity adjustments are based on final field measurements and unforeseen issues in the field. The location of the water main was changed to better suit the final configuration and a hydrant was extended to match grade. There were also steps to be removed that were not in the original plans. The sewer lateral configuration was different than expected, per plan, due to a shared lateral. Staff assistance was needed to clear a storm sewer that was plugged with rock from construction. A motion was made by Alderman Waldron to approve. Seconded by Alderman Moyer. *Alderman Williams lost remote connection prior to the vote.* Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none.

Alderman Williams phoned into the meeting.

4. An Ordinance amending Chapter 27, “PURCHASING,” of the Moline Code of Ordinances, Section 3100, “Competitive Sealed Bidding,” and Section 3101, “Competitive Sealed Proposals,” and adding Section 4104, “Neighborhood Impact.” Derke Price, Corporation Counsel, shared that new procedural requirements have been added recently to various grant programs for which the City is eligible (e.g., OSLAD and PARC grants). These requirements mimic those already imposed by the State of Illinois for projects paid for with Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds. Accordingly, Corporation Counsel recommends amendments to the procurement procedures set forth in Chapter 27 (Purchasing) of the Moline Code of Ordinances in preparation for applying for and receiving said grants. Specifically, changes to Sections 27-3100 (Competitive Sealed Bidding) and 27-3101 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) are recommended to refine the procedures and revise the criteria for evaluating bidders. Many of these criteria mirror those used by Moline’s neighboring communities and by Rock Island County. A motion was made by Alderman Waldron to approve. Seconded by Alderman Moyer. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none.

5. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest to an Agreement with Strand Associates, Inc., for Pretreatment Evaluation and a Local Limits Study, for the amount of \$43,300. Tony Loete, Utilities General Manager, explained that a request for proposals for professional engineering services was placed for completion of this work. Six responses were received, with the most responsive and responsible proposal received from Strand Associates, Inc. The City has a good history of quality and timely service from Strand. The RFP requested review of Moline’s industrial pretreatment program as well as survey processing and permit writing training. Terms have been set for the scope of work at a fee of \$43,300. A motion was made by Alderman Waldron to approve. Seconded by Alderman Moyer. There was discussion. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none.

6. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest to a Certified Water System Operator Contract for Arrowhead Ranch Water System with the Village of Coal Valley. Tony Loete, Utilities General Manager, stated that the Village of Coal Valley has a contractual obligation to provide a water operator to Arrowhead Ranch; however, it does not currently have such an operator on staff. The City of Moline agreed to assist in the interim, and has continued to do so, even though the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) expired on December 31, 2018. This task is primarily performed by Moline’s Chemist (approximately 2 to 3 hours per month) and the Village of Coal Valley is billed for actual expenses incurred. Staff seeks direction from City Council regarding renewal of the IGA and continuation of support services to Coal Valley and Arrowhead Ranch. There was discussion. A motion was made by Alderman Waldron to approve. Seconded by Alderman Moyer. Alderman Waldron, seconded by Alderman Moyer, moved to amend to modify the IGA to include overhead costs. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none. The amended motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none.

7. A Resolution granting a variance to Chapter 34, “WATER AND SEWERS” of the Moline Code of Ordinances and granting a similar variance for sewer service and development of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of East Moline. Tony Loete, Utilities General Manager, indicated that the YMCA currently has a small outbuilding for use in their golf driving range operation. The existing building has no utility service and is in need of replacement. YMCA would like to build a larger structure with a restroom, requiring utility service and extension of public mains. The cost of such extensions exceeds the budget for this project, and YMCA staff has discussed connection alternatives. City staff recommends granting a variance for water service, developing an IGA with East Moline and granting a similar variance for sewer service. Alderman Parker, seconded by Alderman Waldron, moved to approve. There was discussion. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none.

8. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to approve and attest to an exception to the moratorium on hiring pursuant to Resolution 1051-2020 to hire a Water Plant Operator. Tony Loete, Utilities General Manager, shared that one of the Water Treatment Operators was recently promoted to the position for Laboratory Technician, and there is a permanent need to fill a Plant Operator position at this time. The position will be posted internally and may be filled from within the organization. Alderman Schoonmaker, seconded by Alderman Waldron, moved to approve. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none.

9. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to approve and attest to an exception to the moratorium on hiring pursuant to Resolution 1051-2020 to hire four (4) Janitors and a Senior Custodian. Rodd Schick, Municipal Services General Manager, explained that four (4) of the nine (9) janitorial and the senior custodial positions are vacant, and are critical for daily maintenance and sanitation of the City's facilities. Alderman Waldron, seconded by Alderman Moyer, moved to approve. There was discussion. Schick will investigate the number of janitorial staff employed by neighboring municipalities and report back. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none.

10. Other. Alison Fleming, Human Resources Manager, explained that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act) went into effect on April 1, 2020, and required the City to provide its employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. Under the Act, Emergency Responders (Public Works, Fire and Police) could be excepted from the paid leave benefits requirement, and the City Council elected to do so in April 2020. However, in lieu of leave under FFCRA, the City Council voted to provide 2 weeks of paid time off to Emergency Responders with a modification to ensure continuity of operations. Staff seeks approval from the City Council to voluntarily extend the paid leave benefits under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). This would include leave for Emergency Responders, as previously modified and approved, and leave for all other employees, similar to the previous requirements under the FFCRA. If an employee had already used the leave in 2020, he/she would not be eligible for additional leave under such an extension. Employees would also not be eligible for a payout if said leave was not utilized. Staff recommends the leave benefits be retroactively and seamlessly implemented effective January 1, 2021, and extended through March 31, 2021, at which time the benefit could be reevaluated after more widespread distribution of vaccines occurs throughout the country. Alderman Waldron moved to approve. Seconded by Alderman Moyer. There was discussion. The benefit of using accrued sick leave first was questioned, as was the cost of extending the FFCRA benefit. Fleming stated that it is difficult to predict the cost; however, the average cost over the past few months has been approximately \$13,500/month. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Schoonmaker, Waldron, Berg, Williams, Parker, Wendt, Potter and Moyer; nays: none.

Informational

Ice Prevention and Snow Removal Procedures. Rodd Schick, Municipal Services General Manager, described the City's Snow Plan, which was last updated in 2019 and has remained basically unchanged for approximately 10 years. Schick noted that the Plan is more of an internal procedural manual, and staff is working on something that may be both accessible and meaningful to the public. A GIS map of cul-de-sacs and dead-ends on the City's snow routes was presented. Mayor Acri explained that early snow removal and ice preventative treatment is key in Moline, and a higher level of service might be considered. There was discussion of the use of third party contractors for snow removal and leaf vacuuming. Schick explained that Miller Trucking was recently engaged due to staffing issues. Vacant positions will be filled using a bottom-up approach, beginning with groundskeepers and janitors. There was discussion. Schick indicated that on average there are 8-10 snow events annually, and there have already been 4 events this winter. A real time GIS map is being created and is expected to be public facing yet this year. Staff will develop an analysis of services (snow removal, leaf vacuum, etc.) and a recommendation for filling positions or contracting services to ensure the most effective use of resources. This

will be presented to Council within a month. Mayor Acri indicated that an expanded level of service, not privatization of public works services, is suggested. Staff was thanked for their rapid response to resident concerns. Darren Gault, Chief of Police, suggested that the departments of Public Works and Police work together to proactively address snow route enforcement. Gault later added that the community must understand that voluntary compliance is needed.

Public Comment

Resident Kristen Jordan indicated that 3-4 inches of snow remains packed on Molette neighborhood streets. She queried why City parking lots and bike paths were plowed prior to residential streets.

Graeme Jewell, Public Works employee and union representative, explained that Moline's snow routes were plowed within 36 hours. Jewell indicated that when departments are fully staffed, plowing is done in a specific manner. Efficiency would be greatly improved if snow routes were cleared of parked cars.

View recorded meetings at <http://www.moline.il.us/CivicMedia?CID=9>

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janine A. H. Parr".

Janine A. H. Parr
City Clerk