

**March 10, 2025**

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

**8:30 a.m.**

Chairperson Larry Grisen called the meeting to order with the following members present: Larry Grisen, David Earney and Randy Brommer.

Also present: Mayor Richard Champeny, Foreman Joe Wick, Calvin Loewenhagen-crew, and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Torgerson.

No citizens were present.

Agenda IV (a): High School Road crack filling.

Motion by Brommer seconded by Earney to contract with Tim Huebner to crack fill High School Road at the same time as he does the school parking lot with a price not to exceed \$1,000.00. All members voting yes.

(b) Street sweeping.

Motion by Grisen second by Brommer to approve Alasken street sweeping using the skid steer and bucket method on a one-year trial basis. All members voting yes.

(c) Alley brushing. Joe informed the committee that Chance McQuiston will be dropping off the bid for the brushing. Joe reported that the cost for brushing from Chance as:

- From Water Street north to CTH E, cleaning and spraying at a cost of \$4,000.00.
- From CTH E north to Vine St., cleaning and spraying at a cost of \$2500.00.
- The quote is for the alleys only, which is a width of 10'.

Motion by Earney seconded by Brommer to approve the brushing bid for the city alleys from Water St. north to CTH E, cleaning and spraying at a cost of \$4,000.00 submitted by Chance McQuiston. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Brommer to approve the brushing bid for the city alleys from CTH E north to Vine St, cleaning and spraying at a cost of \$2,500.00 submitted by Chance McQuiston. All members voting yes.

(d) Snow removal budget.

Grisen reported that the City has spent approximately 1/3 of the City's snow removal budget on streets. The Dairyland Power site has not been used, Joe commented.

(e) Street cracking/sinking by 309 Vista Drive.

Joe stated that the area has sunk and will cut out a patch and fill with asphalt to level the street out.

(f) Any other street concerns.

Chairperson Grisen informed the committee that the crack filling contracts have been signed. He reported that the cost from Scott Construction for the vacuuming of the rocks is \$2300.00 and the cost from Fahrner is \$525.00 for the sweeping of Vista Drive.

Motion by Earney seconded by Brommer to approve the cost from Scott Construction for the vacuuming of the rocks at \$2300.00 and the cost from Fahrner at \$525.00 for the sweeping of Vista Drive. All members voting yes.

#### Agenda Item V: Sewer and wastewater

- (a) Pre-construction meeting update. Chairperson Larry Grisen stated that the Lift Station 4 project is a go. It was recommended that documentation of the retaining walls is done prior to construction and after construction. David Earney stated that the neighbors should be notified when the project begins and what to expect.
- (b) Any other sewer and wastewater concerns.  
Joe informed the committee that Jeff Reglin has taken care of the project at Lift Station #6. He stated that there is an old CCC dam that will need to be addressed in the near future.

#### Agenda Item VI: Water

- (a) Davy Engineering cross-contamination check plan. The committee went over the plan recommended by Shawn Welte, Davy Engineering, to check the Buffalo County Courthouse for possible cross-contamination.

Motion by Brommer seconded by Earney to approve the cross-contamination check plan at the Buffalo County Courthouse as proposed by Davy Engineering. All members voting yes.

Motion by Brommer seconded by Earney to authorize Larry Grisen to set up a joint meeting with the County and the city employees regarding the cross-contamination check plan. All members voting yes.

It was recommended that Foremen Joe Wick, Calvin Loewenhagen crew, Mayor Champeny, and the maintenance person from the County Courthouse plan to meet.

- (b) Fire hydrant water line leak by 603 S. Main  
Joe stated that the hydrant is turned off. The leak is between the hydrant and the main. TJ's construction will be doing the work. A new line and hydrant will be put in. DOT permits for working on the highway will be for an emergency dig.
- (c) Any other water concerns. None.  
Dave Earney inquired about the pulling of the wells. Cal stated that Well #2 is scheduled for 2026 with Well #1 following.

Randy Brommer inquired about the plans for the chemical treatment building at the wastewater plant. Joe stated that the plans have not been received from Davy Engineering, however, expects them in the near future.

Agenda Item VII: Sidewalks/stairs/retaining walls.

(a) Retaining walls repairs

1. Sorensen plan. Joe stated that Sorensen believes that there are two walls on the wall from 501 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Walnut St and that most of the problem areas are near the top. He feels trees and vines are pushing out the walls.
2. Letters to landowners.
  - a. Tree removal. Joe informed the committee that some of the property owners are upset about losing “their trees.” Joe explained that they are on city property and explained that they are damaging the retaining walls. Joe informed the committee that the cost for the tree removal from Chance McQuiston for 10 trees cut and sprayed is \$3500.00 from 501 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Walnut Street on the east side.

Motion by Earney seconded by Brommer to approve the bid from Chance McQuiston in the amount of \$3500.00 for tree removal (10 trees) and spraying from 501 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Walnut Street on the East side.

- b. Brush/vine/removal. Storm drains get clogged with brush and vines and need to be removed. The city crew will be working on the vine removal.

(b) Other sidewalk/stairs/retaining wall concerns.

Linda informed the committee that the retaining wall in front of the Alma Area Museum at 505 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> needs repair and the handrail next to the sidewalk needs to be repaired as well.

Discussion was held regarding the viewing platform at the bottom of the Bluff Street Steps when the Lift Station #4 project was being done. Randy Brommer stated that if a grant were applied for, ADA compliance would be involved and too costly. Mayor Champeny will consult with Bill Boettcher, architect regarding the ADA compliance. Other ideas include just a concrete platform with footings and a railing and shrubs.

Joe Wick requested that a mobile meeting be held next month to review sites.

Mayor Champeny will be sending a letter to Xcel Energy regarding trimming of the trees in the city alleys away from the power lines.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 14, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Motion by Brommer seconded by Earney to adjourn. All members voting yes.