



City of Palos Heights
Water and Sewer Committee
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bylut called the Water and Sewer Committee meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. In attendance were Chairman Bylut, Alderman Key, Alderman McGrogan, Director of Public Works Adam Jasinski, Director of Finance Jan Colvin and Recording Secretary Ashley Pala. Absent was Alderman Begley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Bylut made a motion to approve the minutes of the Water and Sewer Committee meeting held on January 24, 2023 seconded by Alderman McGrogan. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Jasinski presented the following reports/considerations:

- **Water main breaks:** There have been 6 water main breaks year to date. The last one occurred on Surrey Hill by the cul-de-sac where there were several breaks at the cul-de-sac previously.
- **2022 Sewer Rehabilitation Program:** Most of the lining in the Original Westgate has been completed to date. Contractors are currently grouting the surface connections. The main line is completed. Work will continue until at least the week of March 13.
- **Menominee Lift Station Update:** Breaking ground will occur tomorrow, March 1. All equipment has been delivered with hopes that it will be up and running in 30 days.
- **Oak Hills Lift Station:** The muffler is deteriorating and is now at the point of replacement as holes are increases that can cause water to cause damage.

Chairman Bylut motioned to approve Alternative Energy Solutions to make necessary repairs on the Oak Hills Lift Station generation in the amount of \$13,174.35, seconded by Alderman Key. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. --**AGENDA**

- **12855 Golfview Ln:** This is due to the loss of the water tower during a water main break.

Chairman Bylut motioned to approve payment to Airy's, Inc. for the installation of a 12" easy valve in the amount of \$16,157.70, seconded by Alderman Key. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. --**AGENDA**

- **2023 West College Drive Water Main Lining:** Would like to advertise for bid.
Chairman Bylut motioned to approve advertising to Bid the 2023 West College Drive Water Main Lining, seconded by Alderman McGrogan. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **–AGENDA**
- **Hydrant Painting:** Attempted to solicit three quotes for this project. Two were received and Giant was lower and completed the same work in previous years.

Chairman Bylut motioned to approve painting of approximately 202 hydrants by Giant Maintenance & Restoration in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00, seconded by Alderman Key On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **--AGENDA**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Director Jasinski sought approval for the following:

- Request payment approval for professional services with RJN Group for the 2022 Sewer Rehab Design and Construction, the 2022 On-Call Sewer System Services, and for the GIS Services rendering through January 27, 2023, in the amount of \$7,962.50.

Chairman Bylut motioned to approve payment for professional services with RJN Group for the 2022 Sewer Rehab Design and Construction, the 2022 On-Call Sewer System Services, and for the GIS Services rendering through January 27, 2023, in the amount of \$7,962.50, seconded by Alderman McGrogan. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **–AGENDA**

- Request proposal approval with RJN Group for the 2023 Professional Engineering/GIA On-Call Services in the amount not to exceed \$25,000.00

Alderman McGrogan questioned the need for paying the \$25,000.00 if we pay for the additional invoices as seen above. Director Jasinski explained the agreement and ultimately, it was requested by Alderman McGrogan to change the wording of the requested approved item which is stated in the following motions.

Chairman Bylut motioned to engage in an engineering agreement with RJN Group for the 2023 Professional Engineering/GIS On-Call Services not to exceed an amount of \$25,000.00, seconded by Alderman Key. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **–AGENDA**

- Request to engage in an engineering agreement with RJN Group for the 2023 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Design and Construction Supervision not to exceed an amount of \$75,000.00.

Alderman Key motioned to engage in an engineering agreement with RJN Group for the 2023 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Design and Construction Supervision not to exceed an amount of \$75,000.00, seconded by Chairman Bylut. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **–AGENDA**

- Request amendment approval with Strand Associates, Inc. for the On-Call Engineering Services by an additional \$20,000.00 for the year 2023.

Chairman Bylut motioned to approve an amendment with Strand Associates, Inc. for the On-Call Engineering Services by an additional \$20,000.00 for the year 2023, seconded by Alderman Key. On a voice vote, the motioned passed unanimously. **–AGENDA**

- Request proposal approval with Strand Associates, Inc. for the 131st Street Watermain Lining Design through the IEPA Low Interest Loan Program in the amount of \$86,800.00.

Alderman Key motioned to approval a proposal with Strand Associates, Inc. for the 131st Street Watermain Lining Design through the IEPA Low Interest Loan Program in the amount of \$86,800.00, seconded by Chairman Bylut. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **–AGENDA**

OLD BUSINESS

Water Rate Increase: The 2022 numbers were available for this meeting. The rates have not increased since 2019. More revenue was received through interest rates than previously. Single family and commercial water rates would increase 4%. Single Family flat sewer charge rate would increase 50%. Commercial and industrials minimum sewer charge would increase 50%.

Alderman McGrogan stated he believes the optics are bad. He stated the tap on fees are significant. There is not any additional revenue. Requesting Director Jasinski to review the impact fee amount. He stated that was one of the issues that needs to be addressed. He stated we may not need to increase to 50%.

Director Jasinski stated that the City is landlocked. Utilizing the funds to repair and upgrade the lift stations would be beneficial.

Alderman Key stated we are doing 10 million dollars' worth of work for old infrastructure. If we do not plan how to pay for that, we will be in deficit. If we follow what Director Jasinski is proposing, in 2027 we will be above.

Chairman Bylut reiterated that if we continue at the current rates, the fund will be depleted. We have a lot of expenses coming up. We will not be responsible care takers of the City's financial expenses if we do not move forward.

Chairman Bylut motioned to increase the following utilities rates: single family and commercial water rate increase 4%, single family flat sewer charge rate increase 50%, commercial / industrial minimum sewer charge increase 50%, seconded by Alderman Key. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **--AGENDA**

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynda Schiappa stated that Misty Meadows residents pay an extra \$500-600 a year per home because of an agreement between Gallagher and the City of Palos Heights. None of the residents were made aware of it until receiving their first tax bill. Was informed that part of the subdivision of the new meadows would be compelled to pay that where the other half would not be paying. Stated that they cannot be serviced by them yet still need to pay them. She believes a bond was taken out that expired in 2020, which should have relieved the residents from that fee. Requested those on the committee to look into this.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Alderman Key moved to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Key. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, _____

Ashley Pala, Recording Secretary