

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 13, 2017

A Meeting of the City of Milford Public Works Committee was held in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers at Milford City Hall, 201 South Walnut Street, Milford, Delaware on Monday, February 13, 2017.

PRESIDING: Chairman Owen Brooks Jr.

IN ATTENDANCE: Committee Member: Councilman Douglas Morrow

MAYOR & COUNCIL: Mayor Bryan W. Shupe

Councilmembers Arthur Campbell and James Burk

STAFF: City Manager Eric Norenberg and City Clerk Terri Hudson

Chairman Brooks called the Committee Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Public Works Director Mark Whitfield was also in attendance.

Recommendation/Budget transfer/Solid Waste Capital/Downtown Dual Waste/Recycling Containers Purchase

City Manager Norenberg recalled that earlier this year, the City applied for two different grants through the State of Delaware Recycling Program. Both were partially funded.

The first was applied for just prior to the Public Works Director being hired, though he has been working on the results to acquire eighty dual garbage and recycling containers that can be placed downtown and in the park areas to better educate and make recycling available to the public.

Public Works Director Whitfield recalled the City received a grant for half of the eighty containers or forty containers. At the same time, the one-man refuse collection truck proposal came in at roughly \$40,710 under budget.

As a result, he is requesting to use that savings to purchase the remaining forty dual trash/recycling containers for the downtown, city parks, cemeteries, parking lots and the riverwalk.

Chairman Brooks said he spoke with the City Manager earlier today and asked if he felt that all eighty containers were needed or if forty would suffice. The Public Works Director feels that would be a start. He added that the Parks and Recreation Director has already found locations for the eighty containers though forty would give them a good start.

Mr. Whitfield pointed out the importance of providing the information at the same time the ability to recycle is made available. That should encourage more people to recycle, not only in the parks, but in their homes as well.

Mayor Shupe asked if the grant covers forty dual containers or just recycling bins; City Manager Norenberg clarified that the grant covers the recycling portion of the project which is the reason that only half of the funding was awarded. It will allow the purchase of either eighty recycling-only containers or we can supplement the recycling funding by using City monies to make up the difference to purchase all eighty dual containers.

Mr. Norenberg further explained that because the City's project included both garbage and recycling, funding was only received for the recycling portion. At the time the award was made, the City was granted enough time to identify any alternative funding to cover the remaining costs. This funding opportunity arose as a result of the collection vehicle coming in under budget which saved \$40,710.

He said there are concerns about separate garbage and recycling containers scattered at various locations and whether this would encourage people to discard items in the nearest container regardless of whether or not it was the correct container.

In this manner, both would be available.

Mr. Norenberg reiterated the Public Works' recommendation was to purchase the dual containers. Some of the older garbage containers have already been replaced and the hope is to provide side by side containers that are attractive and match.

Mayor Shupe asked how much forty dual containers will cost; Mr. Whitfield stated approximately \$20,000.

The Mayor feels that making recycling available is great but once we start reviewing the budget, \$40,000 may be a number that is needed this year.

It was confirmed this will only pay for the recycling portion of the forty dual containers or approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Norenberg emphasized that general fund monies would not be used for this project. From a budgetary standpoint, these funds would have to come from the enterprise program as is done with equipment needed for the solid waste program.

Chairman Brooks asked if this money could be used to purchase new trash containers; Mr. Whitfield explained that there are replacement containers budgeted each year.

Chairman Brooks feels we are going to have a tight budget this year and we should only purchase forty containers if that will work.

Mr. Norenberg explained that if only forty are approved, they will work with the State of Delaware to obtain half the grant award and match it with \$20,000 in City funds through the savings of the collection vehicle. He feels they may be able to negotiate doing this in two phases, the first covering the forty dual containers. That will allow time to see how they look and are working within the community. If Council wants to proceed and accept the balance of the grant award before the expiration date in September, they could fund the other \$20,000 and do the second phase. However, that may be a little more expensive because the City would only be purchasing half and the quote may need to be updated.

Councilman Morrow confirmed that half the grant money would need to be returned.

When asked for his opinion, Mayor Shupe is unsure if we will need additional monies from the enterprise funds for that department next year. He asked if this decision can be postponed until June; Mr. Norenberg reiterated that the City has until September to spend the grant money.

Mayor Shupe said he is very concerned with the upcoming budget which is going to be very tight.

Councilman Morrow moved to recommend spending only \$20,000 of the leftover funds for half the containers and reviewing the possibility of purchasing the additional containers after the budget has been approved, seconded by Chairman Brooks. Motion carried.

Update/Water & Sewer Line Replacement/NE and NW Front Streets/Rehabilitation Project & Funding

Public Works Director Whitfield reported that DeIDOT is planning to work on both Northeast and Northwest Front Street during Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. The City wanted to review the condition of both the sewer and water lines prior to that construction work.

He then explained some issues encountered on Rehoboth Boulevard. Many times a vibratory roller running over transite pipe will result in numerous water leaks which is what happened after DeIDOT repaved Rehoboth Boulevard.

The City prefers to get ahead of that and replace the water line. The waterline replacement being proposed would include the removal and replacement of all water lines and service lines from Route 113 to Rehoboth Boulevard. The waterline main between East Street and Rehoboth Boulevard is transite piping or asbestos-concrete. The ductile iron pipe line from Maple

Avenue to East Street contains lead goose-neck service line connections, all of which need to be replaced. They are considering deleading the water system that is cast iron that was most likely installed in the 1930's and 1940's.

Mr. Whitfield reported the sewer lines are a little better and a good portion can be slip-lined which means a plastic pipe can be inserted inside the existing pipe. That will save digging up a fair amount of the road. However, the one section from North Church to North Street will need to be replaced through an open cut.

He advised that the funding for the sewer line work is eligible under the USDA-RD Loan Grant awarded in 2016 in the amount of \$4 million. That will provide just about enough money to do all of the sewer work, including the Fisher Avenue Pump Station, which is an ongoing project.

The Shawnee Acres Pump Station project was put on hold until they determined what was needed for this project. Included would be the sewer line replacement and slip-lining needed on Front Street.

According to the Public Works Director, those three projects come to a total of approximately \$4.2 million of which \$4 million is available through the USDA loan process. The additional \$211,000 would need to be transferred from sewer reserves to complete the project.

He reported there is no funding available for the water project. The estimated cost of the water line replacements is \$1,549,756. After consulting with the Finance Director, it is possible to fund the waterline project through a loan/grant opportunity. One opportunity is a low-interest loan program called WIFIA geared toward water line replacement projects. However, it is Mr. Whitfield's understanding there is a \$5 million minimum.

Finance Director Jeff Portmann believes the City could borrow the \$1.5 million to do the water line and pay it back over a five-year period which would eliminate the referendum process.

The Public Works Director feels both would be money well spent and because of DeIDOT's project, Council needs to act fairly soon.

In the meantime, Mr. Whitfield will be coming back with a proposal for engineering services. Once the financing is in line, he will provide that information as well.

Chairman Brooks told the Public Works Director that both he and Councilman Morrow feel the work needs to be done and recalled a major problem in the area of Brady Drive several years ago and warned him about what might be underground.

Councilman Morrow moved to recommend approving the \$211,000 be used from the sewer reserves, seconded by Chairman Brooks. Motion carried.

Chairman Brooks added that he feels the water project should be done and that Councilman Morrow feels the same way.

Public Works Director Whitfield reiterated that both projects need to be done simultaneously to prevent tearing the roadway up twice.

City Manager Norenberg clarified this is only informational at this point in time.

Update/Airport Road Project

DBF Engineer Jason Loar was also present.

Mr. Whitfield reported the design is moving forward and should be out to bid in March if everything aligns with DeIDOT and other State agencies with regard to reviews.

He then explained the two edges of the pavement that are roughly six feet will need to be totally removed and replaced. The

one recommendation from the engineers is to remove all pavement and rebuild the roadway. That would cost an additional \$750,000 which is not in the budget so only the sides will be removed.

Mr. Whitfield continued by explaining the pavement is very distressed but they will do everything that is possible and within budget.

He then reported there are two options on the schedule. One is to maintain traffic through the work site for the duration of the project. The other is to limit shutdowns and allow the contractor to do work. There is enough space to shutdown portions and use Mullet Run as a detour.

Maintaining traffic through the work site would add another two months to the construction time period, plus an additional \$100,000 to \$150,000.

He stressed the importance of getting ahead of this project in terms of publicity though it appears that shutting the road down in various portions would be the most cost effective and also reduce the amount of construction time.

Mr. Whitfield recommends that alternate bids be taken for the portion of Airport Road between Canterbury Road and Delaware Veterans Boulevard. If the bids come in high, Council would have the option to reduce the scope of the job and allow the major portion of the project to move forward with the section between Canterbury and Delaware Veterans Boulevard to be completed in the future.

Chairman Brooks said this is an old country road that the City has tried to make a major road. Basically the safety aspect needs to be considered.

Mayor Shupe stated that he wants to go on public record stating there were some complications with funding last year. There was a clarification needed from the Attorney General's Office regarding Community Transportation Funds (CTF) and prevailing wages. That may have impacted the project by an additional \$300,000. Senator Gary Simpson and Representative Harvey Kenton took those concerns back to Legislative Hall and new legislation was drafted as a result. Because of their actions, the prevailing wage will not be required which will save the City \$300,000.

Mayor Shupe appreciates the work and effort that both Senator Simpson and Representative Kenton put into getting that done especially considering the urgent need to get that roadway done.

Chairman Brooks stressed that the road needs to be fixed; Public Works Director Whitfield pointed out it should have been repaired at least ten years ago. Chairman Brooks agreed that it should have been repaved before the State gave it to the City because it was a problem then. But the State of Delaware went ahead and still turned it over to the City.

There being no further business, Councilman Morrow moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Brooks. Motion carried.

The Public Works Committee meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri K. Hudson, MMC
City Clerk/Recorder