

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee**

**December 7, 2020**

**Members:** Mary Nichols Rhodes  
Frank Stams  
Jeff Iula

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the October 19, 2020 Public Improvements Committee were approved as written.

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. A-92

Temp. Ord. A-93

Temp. Ord. A-94

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. A-92**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, with a company or companies, according to law, for the roadway improvements to Sourek Trail, from Sand Run Road to the intersection west of Sand Hill Drive, and installation of waterline on Sand Hill Drive, Kubic Drive, and a portion of Sourek Trail, together with necessary appurtenances, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance A-92 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, with a company or companies, according to law, for the roadway improvements to Sourek Trail, from Sand Run Road to the intersection west of Sand Hill Drive, and installation of waterline on Sand Hill Drive, Kubic Drive, and a portion of Sourek Trail, together with necessary appurtenances. The Finance Director will be authorized to make payment for same from the Capital Projects Fund, line-Item Capital Outlay.

Mr. Demasi stated that the bids opened on November 24. Twelve bids were received, and the low bid was from Kenmore Construction Company. All bids are posted on the website. Work includes installing a new City of Akron waterline, sewer improvements and reconfiguring the intersection at Sourek Road and Sourek Trail. Work will begin in the January-February timeframe with an installation of a waterline as the first item to be done, as well as the tree cutting necessary for roadway improvements. All of that will be hopefully done by April, and then they will go into roadway improvements at that point. It is anticipated that all of that work to be done by the end of October of next year.

Mr. Balthis thanked Mr. Demasi for all the evening meetings that they conducted with the residents there. Mr. Zumbo and Mr. Stams have been out there meeting with them, as well. Mr.

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Balthis asked if this contract includes the tree replacement, or will that be a separate contract, and how do they plan on interacting with the public during that process.

Mr. Demasi stated that the replanting of the trees in the right-of-way will be done under a separate contract. They plan to engage with a tree expert time in the summer when they have a better idea of what the final product will look like. They will plant new trees where needed and warranted in the fall or even the winter of next year. They will engage the residents as they always have. Mr. Balthis asked if the waterline will include fire hydrants being added where the waterline will run. Mr. Demasi stated that the new line will include hydrants.

Mr. Gorbach stated that this project created quite a bit of consternation with some residents that resulted in what Council is discussing tonight. This is one of the byproducts of that project. He is glad to see it is finally getting to this point and appreciates all the meetings with the residents that various Administration and Council members have had. That communication went a long way in letting them know and getting their feedback on what was needed out there. The City is doing a lot of improvements throughout that area that would not have otherwise been done.

Mr. Stams moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-92 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-93**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the Towpath Boulevard Storm Improvements, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi presented Temporary Ordinance A-93. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the Towpath Boulevard Storm Improvements. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the Storm Drainage Utility Fund, line item Capital Outlay.

Mr. Demasi stated that flooding along Towpath Boulevard seems to be a common event. In an attempt to alleviate that, they designed a project where they will intercept a small stream which currently flows down one side of the Boulevard, crosses the Boulevard, and flows into a northern pond. What that is doing is causing flooding problems. That pond was not meant for that. What this project does is intercept that stream and have it flow more directly into the river where it currently goes. Bids were opened on November 17<sup>th</sup>, and 16 bids were received for this project. The low bid for this project was Fioritto Construction. They have done work many times in the past for the City. They anticipate the work will start in the spring of 2021 and be completed within a couple months.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked if it is normal to get 12 bids or 16 bids on projects like these. Mr. Demasi stated that it is a combination of several things. They are bidding projects at the best time. With projects like Sourek Trail and this one, contractors love to see bid in November and December, because they can gather up their workforce for the following year and forecast their

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work. Other communities have scaled back some of their capital programs because of the pandemic. With the great help of the Administration, Bryan Hoffman, and his group, they have been able to march forward, especially with these enterprise type of projects. Storm water and utilities do not seem to be affected so much so by the downturn, but they have been fortunate because they have been able to bid these projects.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-93 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Stams. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-94 (Sub. Dated 12/7/20)**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the construction of underground power lines on Pinebrook Trail to replace old direct buried electrical cables with new conduit and cables and to replace transformer pads.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that the original Temporary Ordinance A-94 lacked four words, "and declaring an emergency," at the end. Today, a substitute was sent to Council and Council is going to simply deal with the substitution, which, again, is the addition of the four words.

Mr. Michael Dougherty, Electric Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance A-94. Pinebrook Trail has old direct buried underground primary voltage cables that have reached the end of their expected useful life and must be replaced with newly run conduit. The transformer pads have reached the end of their expected useful life and need to be replaced. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the construction of underground power lines on Pinebrook Trail to replace old direct buried electrical cables with new conduit and cables and to replace transformer pads. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the Electric Fund, line-item Capital Outlay.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that she had asked about the difference in length of use of the underground versus the overhead lines, and Mr. Dougherty stated that, with older underground cables, the insulation breaks down. They usually would last 30 years. A better product is now available that lasts 40 to 50 years. There is no actual insulation in the above-ground lines. The insulators are at the pole. The above-ground last 80 years, but now these new underground cables last 40 or 50 years.

Mr. Stams moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-94 (Sub. Dated 12/7/20) with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7: 11 p.m.