

Minutes
Water Resource Management Utility Meeting
(Formerly Stormwater Utility)
New Berlin City Hall - Council Chambers
3805 S. Casper Drive
August 8, 2006

Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Water Resource Management Utility (formerly Stormwater Committee) at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Present: Alderman Ken Harenda, Alderman John Hopkins, Alderman Roger Hegeman, Mayor Jack Chiovaturo and Commissioner Jim Kern

Others Present: Eric Nitschke (Division Engineer), Greg Kessler (Director of Community Development), Chuck Trevorow (Water Resource Supervisor), Jim Hart (Utility Supervisor) & Sue Hanley (Office Coordinator Utilities & Streets)

Meeting called to order at 4:47pm by Alderman Harenda and declared a quorum with all members present.

SW 01-06 Minutes from July 11th Meeting

Motion by Alderman Hopkins to approve the minutes from the July 11th Water Resource Management Committee meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Kern and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

SW 19-06 Water Resource Utility Reimbursement for Utility Locating Services

Alderman Harenda said that this item was a referral from the Utility Committee.

Jim Hart, Utility Supervisor, said that the Utility is looking for reimbursement for Digger's Hotline locating requests. He stated that this item was recommended to Common Council at the July 25th Utility Committee to ask for the reimbursement of \$20,000 per year from the Water Resource Management Utility to cover the cost for labor, vehicle charges and materials. Mr. Hart said that the Utility is governed by the PSC and their policy is to charge other departments for work performed by the Utility. He added that Ralph Chipman from the Finance Department talked to the PSC and they thought we were following this policy all along.

Mr. Hart said that the Utility is charged \$1.50 per locate by Digger's Hotline, and last year there were 4,800 locates. This does not include the cost of staff labor, vehicle fuel, and materials. Mr. Hart added that many of the locates are in the newer subdivisions in the City such as Roger's Glen, Poplar Creek, Inez Drive and the stretch of Greenfield Avenue that the City has responsibility for, and in those areas, there are no water or sewer services, just storm sewer pipes that need to be located. Mr. Hart added that since the ground water line is below the frost line and the sewer lines lower than that, the storm sewer line is the most likely to be hit by a backhoe or digging.

Mayor Chiovaturo asked if there is a Utility employee that is assigned to locates every day. Mr. Hart said that in the winter months, there are only about 10-15 per day, so it only requires several hours, but during the warmer months May to September, they are out all day locating. Mayor Chiovaturo asked if other Utilities use a contractor to do the locates. Mr. Hart answered that the gas, electric and telephone companies use SMP, but that they require precise maps, which are not always available in New Berlin. He added that if the WRM Utility would like to do their own locates, they would need an employee on call 24/7, a fax machine, materials and also join Digger's Hotline as a member.

Commissioner Kern asked where this funding would come from if approved. Mr. Nitschke said that it would be a revenue or cash flow account. Alderman Hopkins asked Mr. Nitschke if he had any comments. Mr. Nitschke said that when this item was put on the agenda, it was the first that he had heard of it being mentioned, and that in the past the Utilities have worked together to do these things, but understands the Utility Department requesting reimbursement for their labor and materials.

Alderman Hegeman asked what percentage of the locates involve stormwater? Mr. Hart said that in 2005, approximately 3,800 of the 4,800 were stormwater. Jim said that, for example in the new areas, there are stormwater only locates and in other areas, staff spends approximately 35 minutes on storm sewer locates, and 5 minutes on sewer and 5 minutes on water.

Alderman Harenda asked Mr. Hart if he could put some figures together of how many locates were stormwater and pass it along to Eric. He said he would like to review this information and include it in the budget discussions.

Motion to table Item SW 19-06 by Alderman Hegeman. Seconded by Commissioner Kern and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

SW 07-06 Resident Request for Corrective Action Re: Drainage Concerns (tabled)

Alderman Harenda said that staff had no additional information at this point. Several residents from the area were present and questioned why they had to wait for a decision on their reimbursement and what information was needed. Eric Nitschke said that he was out of the office for training several weeks this month, and needed time to put together information on the reimbursement request and the design. Residents asked to be notified if this item will be discussed at the next meeting and that the Committee has a welcome invitation to come out in the field and view the area.

Mayor Chiovero advised the Committee that the next scheduled meeting is September 12th and that is Election Day, so the meeting will need to be rescheduled.

SW 10-06 Woelfel Drainage Easement Discussion (tabled)

This item remains tabled.

SW 19-05 Approval of Stormwater Utility Updated Five-Year Plan (tabled)

This item remains tabled.

SW 11-06 Discussion of Woodland Drive Resident Request (tabled)

This item remains tabled.

SW 17-06 Approval of 2007 Water Resource Management Utility Operating Budget

Mr. Nitschke said the requested action was to approve the WRM Operating Budget, but said that because the Committee received the information so late, he would like to give them time to digest it and ask questions.

Mr. Nitschke went over the changes in the budget from last year and noted several accounts:

52100 Admin Charge Utility– City Engineer added back in at 11% of salary and benefits. This position was pulled out of the budget several years ago when there was a Director of Utilities and Streets.

52130 Admin Charge City Streets -Director of Utilities and Streets 25% salary & fringe replaced with the CDC Director 11% salary & fringe. Added 50% proposed Machine Operator salary for street sweeping.

52131 Admin Charge – Inspection - Code Compliance officer increase to 50% of salary and fringe due to more onsite inspections and code enforcement with stormwater functions and complying with WPDES permit.

Mr. Nitschke said that the training account has been decreased, the equipment account has increased, and there are minimal cost increases on the other accounts. Mr. Nitschke said that the street sweeper increased the equipment budget last year, but the Street department has not seen an increase of additional personnel even though there were funds for it in last years budget, the money never found its way to the Streets budget; it went to the general City budget. Mr. Nitschke said that the new street sweeper has new technology, but requires additional maintenance, and the funds allocated for that maintenance again did not go to the Street budget, but were added to the City budget.

Alderman Hegeman asked if the old street sweeper was run full-time. Mr. Nitschke said no, it was run when there was time, but with more ditching projects, personnel were often used for those crews. He said that there will be tighter regulations from the DNR to obtain the water quality benefits and credits. Mr. Nitschke continued that with the old sweeper, if they used a 5 mph pace, they would not receive a credit, and now they are required to maintain a 2-3 mph pace which requires longer time to cover the entire city. Alderman Harenda asked how long it took to complete the entire City. Mr. Nitschke answered that he didn't have the exact figures, but thought it was approximately 1,000 hours based on the number of passes and width of the streets. Alderman Hegeman asked how much credit we will be receiving from the DNR. Mr. Nitschke replied the credit would be 20% of suspended solids if we sweep twice a year.

Mayor Chiovaturo said that he can support 50% of an Operator position in the Water Resource Management but, but not in the Streets budget. He acknowledged that the Street department crews are having trouble covering all of the new plow routes of the additional subdivisions with the reduced crews.

Alderman Harenda questioned the Admin Charge for Inspections account 52131 and why the percentage went up from a 40% split to 50%, and that this increase was not in the 5-year plan. Mr. Nitschke said that the increase is in response to dealing with unfunded mandates and that the City passed the last DNR audit for erosion control and code enforcement with flying colors. He said that the audits will be done yearly and there are many new requirements to comply with WPDES Permits, especially with the DNR looking at bringing communities up to compliance, then applying enforcement and fees from the EPA.

Alderman Harenda asked if the permit was up for renewal in 2008. Mr. Nitschke said yes, but the tough one (40% suspended solids) is in 2013. Mr. Nitschke said Tony our Code Compliance officer filled the vacant Associate Planner position, and Jessica Schmidt, who has experienced with MMSD and the DNR, has moved into the position.

Non-Operating Revenues are lower than 2006 without the \$147,000 grant for the purchase of the Mischo property on Fullerton. Mr. Nitschke said grants will be applied for in 2007, including Underwood Creek.

Alderman Hegeman asked if there would be any grant funding in 2007. Mr. Nitschke said that at the present time, the DNR is trying to get a handle on all of its projects, so there are no grants being given at this time, but hopefully they will be coming back to it in the future.

Mr. Nitschke told the Committee if they had any questions, please email or call him.

Alderman Harenda asked for a breakdown of planned projects for the 59060 Drainage account. Mr. Nitschke said there is one major item already slated and that was the Citywide Analysis Pollutant Loading in which the DNR reports how much sediment we contribute and establishes a baseline.

Motion to table item SW 17-06 by Commissioner Kern. Seconded by Alderman Hopkins and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nitschke recalled that the Committee asked for a recommendation of what should be done with the \$500,000 transferred from the remaining funds from the Gatewood, Inez Drive, and Buena Park projects. Staff's recommendation was to do the Industrial Park Drainage Easement on Calhoun Road and Lincoln but increase the money allocated to \$250,000, as the HNTB study of \$210,000 was a year ago; and leaving the other \$250,000 in the account or using it to pay back borrowed money.

Alderman Hopkins asked what the plans were for Coffee Road. Mr. Nitschke answered that we would be using Drainage account funds for places like Coffee Road in the interim since there is probably going to be development in the area, but there is no design as of yet. Staff is planning to reset 2 culvert pipes in the next 6-12 months, one west of Francis and one east of Calhoun to drain to a ditch that can be reshaped and modified to drain to the west and provide relief to the residents.

Alderman Harenda asked if this has been communicated to Alderman Ament. Eric Nitschke replied that yes, his reaction was favorable in that we will help the drainage in the front yard, and he said the backyard drainage is a regional project that will cost millions of dollars. Mr. Nitschke said the design work on Calhoun will coordinate with the sump pump venture, and if his request goes to Council, Alderman Ament asked that it is tabled until he can talk to residents first. Mr. Nitschke expected the work to be accomplished in the winter.

Commissioner Kern asked where this remaining money would show on the budget. Mr. Nitschke said that the amount would not show on the budget, but would sit in the Buena Park project account.

Motion by Alderman Hegeman to transfer \$250,000 from account 04251171 61707 C2004 Buena Park stormwater improvement to Account 04251171 61716 C2004 for the work designated project for the Industrial Park Drainage Easement on Calhoun Road and Lincoln. Seconded by Alderman Hopkins and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by 6:03 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Kern and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Hanley, Office Coordinator Utilities and Streets