



SHAKER HEIGHTS

SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2023
8:00 AM
VIA ZOOM MEETING

Members Present: Tres Roeder, Council Chairperson
Earl Williams, Council Member
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member
Carmella Williams, Council Member
Patricia Speese, Director Public Works
Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire
Sarah Schiavoni, Citizen Member
James Sammon, Citizen Member

Others Present: David Weiss, Mayor
Jeri Chaikin, CAO
Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police
John Potts, Director of Finance
Kyle Krewson, Director Housing
Anna Mates, Principal Planner
Kara O'Donnell, Senior Planner
Megan Sakacs, Recording Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tres Roeder at 8:00 am.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Council Chair Roeder asked for a motion to approve the March 2, 2023 Safety and Public Works minutes. A motion was made by Council Member Earl Williams, and seconded by Council Member Carmella Williams. The motion carried.

RECOGNIZING MAY 2023 AS BIKE MONTH IN SHAKER HEIGHTS

Anna Mates, Presenter

Ms. Mates is requesting approval for a resolution proclaiming May 2023 as bike month in the City of Shaker Heights to promote the benefits of cycling and to encourage more residents to try cycling sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists.

Ms. Mates mentioned that May has been nationally recognized as Bike Month for 67 years, and is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists. This year the league is recognizing the week of May 15th -21st as Bike to Work week, and Friday May 19th as Bike to Work Day. Ms. Mates noted that the City of Shaker Heights has over 100 miles of bike friendly roads, with some including sharrows and signage to encourage vehicles and bikes to share the road.

Additionally, the city does have bicycling license requirements and recognizes that bicycling improves the health, wellness, and well-being and quality of life of our residents, all while improving the air pollution. Ms. Mates noted that the City of Shaker has been recognized twice as a bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. Council Chair Roeder open the floor up for questions, there were none.

A motion was made by Council Member Earl Williams and it was seconded by Citizen Member Jonathan Hren. The motion was carried.

AWARD CATCH BASIN CLEANING CONTRACT

Patricia Speese, Director Public Works

Director Speese is requesting approval to award the Catch Basin Cleaning contract to the second lowest bidder Advanced Plumbing & Drain, although the charter states that a contract should be awarded to the first lowest/best bidder.

Director Speese explained the reasoning for her request is, back in 2021 a 3 year contract was awarded to the first lowest/best bidder Sweeping Corp of America located out of Tennessee. The first year of that contract, everything was fine, a crew was sent up to perform the work and the job was completed to our satisfaction. However, in 2022 second year of the same contract with this same company, after the job was said to be completed, it was discovered by our own inspectors who inspect all the jobs that only about 10% of the catch basin were actually cleaned, but yet the city was billed as if all basins were cleaned. After, months and numerous discussions later with the contracted company, who did eventually come to see and inspect the job for themselves agreed that the job was not performed.

Based off the experience from last year, it was decided to not renew the third year of that contract with Sweeping Corp of America, and a new 3-year bid was advertised. Sweeping Corp. of America submitted another bid during the recent open bid and did come in again as the lowest bidder along however, not the best bid. Director Speese, stressed that she does not feel comfortable awarding a contract to a company that they cannot trust to do the work and caused a lot more work for the city to ultimately get our catch basins cleaned and inspected. Director Speese mentioned although this is something that the Mayor has the authority to authorize, the city's policy us to seek the approval of Council for their approval, as well as explain why she is recommending not contracting with the Street Sweeping Corp. of America.

Tres Roeder opened floor up for questions. Citizen Member James Sammon ask if there was ever a lawsuit filed against Sweeping Corp of America for not performing the work, Director Speese stated that there was not because after months of back and forth communication they did finally come out and completed the work that was originally agreed upon. Council Member Earl Williams asked if there was a large price difference between the two bids, Director Speese stated there is less than a 10% difference (\$97,000 to \$105,000). Director Speese also mentioned that the city has done work in the past with Advanced Plumbing & Drain and they are a very reputable and reliable company to work with.

A motion was made by Council Member Earl Williams and it was seconded by Citizen Member James Sammon. The motion was carried.

CMAQ GRANT APPLICATION FOR LEE ROAD

Kara Hamley- O'Donnell, Principal Planner

Ms. Hamley O'Donnell is request to authorize a grant application to accept a grant from, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program for the Lee Road Bikeway, also referred to as an off road, two-way cycle track.

Ms. Hamley O'Donnell mentioned that NOACA has \$42 million in CMAQ funding through State Fiscal Year 2029 to improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. Projects will be selected through a statewide competitive process with applications due May 5, 2023.

In 2021, two CMAQ grant applications for Lee Road improvements including signalization and a multipurpose path were submitted. We were granted \$605,000 for border-to-border signalization improvements to reduce vehicular congestion. The multipurpose path was not funded. Since then, the Lee Road Action Plan was completed and adopted. The Lee Road Action Plan, is a community-driven, visionary, targeted reinvestment plan for the Lee Road commercial corridor which provides the long-term vision for Lee Road and addresses transportation, urban design, land use, and economic development.

Ms. Hamley O'Donnell mentioned a key foundation of the plan is a road diet that includes a two-lane, sidewalk-level bikeway on the west side of Lee, beginning near City Hall and extending to the southern City border. The proposed bikeway will provide a safe mode of bicycle transportation where none currently exists. It will also improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and improve the aesthetics of the Lee Road commercial district south of City Hall.

Tres Roeder opened floor up for questions. Council Member Earl Williams asked if his response to a residents question was correct, he clarified that there are 2 bikeways currently 1 going north to south and the other going east to west, and the east and west bikeway would connect with communities that are both north and south of Shaker, he asked if this is the only bikeways they are working with or will there be others. Ms. Hamley O'Donnell clarified that there is always a future vision for bicycles, but right now Anna Mates is heading up the project working on an inroad Van Aken Boulevard bikeway, that would go from the Van Aiken District all the way up to Lee, which is also funded through NOACA. Citizen Member James Sammon asked about the off road two way Lee Road cycle track going up to only Chagrin, Ms. Hamley-O'Donnell explained that it will go up to about City Hall on the west side of the road. From there it will connect to in-road bike lanes from City Hall to the northern Shaker border.

A motion was made by Council Member Earl Williams and it was seconded by Citizen Member Sarah Schiavoni. The motion was carried.

REQUEST AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR OWDA LOAN FOR THE TRANSFER STATION

Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works

Director Speese is requesting authority to request and accept a low-interest Solid Waste Loan from the Ohio Water Development Authority in the amount of \$1.3 million dollars with annual debt service payments coming directly from the General Fund

The 2019 Capital Budget allocated funding in the amount of \$200,000 to begin the design/emergency repair process for the needed structural repairs to the Transfer Station at Public Works. The Transfer Station was built at the same time as when the Service Center facility was constructed in the early 70's and was repaired in 1996 (25 years later) and is currently in need of repairs (27 years later). The Transfer Station is a tremendous asset to the residents and the city as a whole which makes solid waste collection and organic collection (brush, leaves, etc.) more efficient and reduces overall transportation costs, air emissions, energy use, truck traffic, and road wear and tear. Rather than every time a refuse truck is filled, which occurs multiple times daily for the three dedicated refuse trucks, the trucks would have to be transported to the closest Transfer Station on Ridge Road in Cleveland; all refuse is processed at our Transfer Station and then hauled out to the landfill once or twice a day in a semi-trailer. The transfer station also houses the snow salt as well.

Director Speese mentioned that brush and leaf dump trucks would have to be hauled out individually (25-30 trucks daily) to a compost facility which we now haul out twice a day in a semi-trailer all at once. Since inspection of the Transfer Station by a structural engineer in 2019, shoring has been in place to keep the facility stable until the needed repairs could be further investigated, designed, and completed.

During the 2023 Capital budget process we discussed that this project design was being finalized and would be bid in early 2023 at which time we would come back to Committee's and Council for approval to enter into a low-interest loan agreement with Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) who provides competitive interest rates for environmental infrastructure projects
Transfer Stations

The lowest and best bid received was in the amount of \$1,288,375 and our loan request will be in the amount of \$1.3 million of which we will only be responsible for what we borrow. The project consists of significant phasing (so as to not interrupt our operation), full depth concrete flooring replacement, concrete retaining wall replacement, new structural steel columns which will be galvanized steel that is treated with anti-corrosion protection along with numerous other ancillary repairs. We anticipate this being a six month construction project.

Director Speese invited Finance Director John Potts to speak on the loan specifications. Director Potts explained that the OWDA adjusts their interest rates monthly. The March rate for the Solid Waste loan program is 3.74% for loan terms of 5 to 20 years. Based on a these terms, annual debt service on this loan would be approximately \$94,000. Debt service would be paid from the General Fund. First payment must occur within 12 months after substantial completion so likely in mid to late 2024. There is no prepayment penalty on the loan.

Tres Roeder opened floor up for questions. Council Member Earl Williams asked for clarification on the interest rate monthly adjustment. Director Potts clarified that the interest rate changes monthly, but once the loan is opened it would be locked in at that rate the whole term of the loan. Council Member Carmella Williams asked if there would be any refuse services impacted to residents during the project. Director Speese, assured her that there would be no impact to residents, refuse will always be opened and in the unexpected event that it would need to be shut down Cleveland Heights is always available to use or there is also the option to run a second shift if need be.

A motion was made by Council Member Carmella Williams and it was seconded by Council Member Earl Williams

STREET MAINTENANCE FUND FOR LARGE AREA REPAIR APPROPRIATION

Patricia Speese, Director Public Works

Director Speese, in an effort to address the severe deterioration of one of our main arteries, Lee Road, and is requesting an appropriation of \$425,000 from our Street Maintenance Fund to perform the Large Area Repairs.

With low staffing levels during the past several years our Street Maintenance Fund budget did not utilize all of its funding, thereby realizing a fund balance as December 31, 2022 of over \$500,000 which we would like to use \$425,000 to perform a significant amount of Large Area Repairs to keep Lee Road passable until 2026 when resurfacing and total rehabilitation of the roadway south of Chagrin is scheduled to occur.

Director Speese mentioned that Lee Road required quite a bit of pothole repairs to keep it passable by the motoring public and Public Works had crews assigned to the street every three to four weeks. However, with the tremendous amount of rain rather than snow this winter, Lee Road is in terrible shape and will not last until the Lee Road Project commences in 2026.

On January 27, 2023 the City received six bids for the 2023 Street Resurfacing Program, which included Large Area Repair. The City entered into a requirements contract with the lowest and best bidder, Ronyak Paving. Ronyak Paving has performed multiple paving projects for the City in the past and has always performed quality work.

The process of Large Area Repairs includes the removal of up to two 2 inches of asphalt from the street, with 2 inches of new hot mix asphalt being applied, and the edges are sealed. This allows us to address badly deteriorated, cracked, or large potholed areas and greatly improve the driving surface.

Tres Roeder opened floor up for questions. Citizen Member James Sammon asked for clarification that this would cover the entirety of Lee Rd. Director Speese confirmed that yes, this includes fixing the worst parts of Lee Rd. from border to border. Citizen Member Jonathan Hren asked if the manhole areas on the south end would be addressed. Director Speese confirmed that yes majority of them would be addressed but not all are city owned. Citizen Member Sarah Schiavoni asked if this was going to take place in 2023 or 2024. Director Speese confirmed that project would be starting sometime in April/May of this year (2023).

A motion was made by Citizen Member Jonathan Hren and it was seconded by Citizen Member Sarah Schiavoni

LEGISLATION TO ALLOW HOUSING INSPECTORS TO INSPECT FOR CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Kyle Krewson, Director of Housing

Director Krewson is proposing legislation be adopted by Council to amend the Codified Ordinances to enable Housing Inspectors to cite for the absence of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in any residence where the Ohio Fire Code requires one. For any permitted new construction activity or replacement of gas-fired appliances, building permit inspectors are already confirming CO detectors be present as required by the Ohio Building Code and Residential Code of Ohio. Fire Department personnel are also already inspecting for CO detectors as part of their normal Fire Prevention functions.

That being said, currently, the Fire Department does not regularly inspect existing single or two family homes, nor the individual units of an apartment or condominium building. However, the City's Housing Inspectors in the Building and Housing Department do inspect all interior areas of dwellings during rental inspections and point of sale inspections. They can also access interior areas during a complaint inspection. Unfortunately, though, the Housing Inspectors do not have the authority to cite for violations of the Ohio Fire Code, which is reserved exclusively for the Fire Department personnel. Fire Chief Sweeney also spoke, and stated that this is a change of legislation that the Fire Department would welcome

Director Krewson explained that carbon monoxide is a byproduct of combustion of fuel-burning appliances, as well as internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and equipment. This colorless, odorless, tasteless gas is a silent killer that can cause serious health problems and even death if not detected in a timely manner. It is crucial to have working CO detectors installed near sleeping areas, as well as in other areas of the home where fuel-burning appliances or attached garages are present, to provide early warning of dangerous CO levels and prevent tragedies from occurring.

Tres Roeder opened floor up for questions. Council Member Earl Williams asked what is the significance of an older non efficient furnace as far as making the detector go off? Director Krewson clarified that there is no connections between the efficiency of the furnace and the detector. He stated that if your detector is going off there can be a significant problem unrelated to the efficiency of the furnace. Citizen Member James Sammon asked if this change in legislation would allow inspectors to come into a residence solely for this reason. Director Krewson explained that this requirement is already in effect, he is only asking to change by allowing housing inspectors to cite as the Fire Department has the authority to do. He went on to explain that this would only be used during the course of their normal inspections that already occurs. The City would not be going door-to-door to make sure residents have working CO detectors.

A motion was made by Council Member Carmella Williams and it was seconded by Council Member Earl Williams

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (CPT) FUNDS APPROPRIATION

Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police

Chief Hudson is requesting to allocate the funds that were deposited into the CPT revenue account in 2022. The Finance Department indicated that there is a balance of \$30,500 in the CPT revenue account. Chief Hudson is requesting to transfer \$15,000 into the CPT training overtime account and \$15,500 into the CPT training/registration account from the CPT revenue account.

Chief Hudson indicated that starting back in 2009 the Shaker Heights Police Department has been allocated funds through the State of Ohio Attorney General’s Office for Continuing Professional Training (CPT) hours which are mandated by the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy (OPOTA). OPOTA identifies the yearly required hours per office. In 2023, each officer is required to complete 24 hours of CPT training.

Chief Hudson stated that agencies were no longer required to return their unspent CPT funds and are allowed to use funds to pay the cost of CPT training programs. In previous years, officers who qualified for overtime when attending CPT training have been compensated through the operational overtime budget. Chief Hudson is asking to be allowed to use a portion of the CPT allocated funds to pay the overtime to avoid the need to use the operational overtime budget. Additionally, this enable us to cover registration for officers to take approved CPT courses. Chief Hudson noted that these are both approved usages of CPT funds.

Tres Roeder opened floor up for questions. Citizen Member Jonathan Hren asked if additional funds would be needed for the year. Chief Hudson stated that the available funds currently will allow 10-15 officers to attend the mandatory training courses and the rest of the cost would come from the current budget.

A motion was made by Citizen Member Sarah Schiavoni and it was seconded by Citizen Member Jonathan Hren.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 am.

Respectfully,



Tres Roeder, Council Chairperson
Safety & Public Works Committee