



# SHAKER HEIGHTS

**SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2020  
8:00 AM  
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

Members Present: Robert Zimmerman, Council Chairperson  
Sean Malone, Council Member  
Carmella Williams, Council Member  
Earl Williams, Council Member  
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member  
James Sammon, Citizen Member  
Kimberly Harris, Citizen Member  
Patricia Speese, Director Public Works  
Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire  
Jeffrey DeMuth, Chief of Police

Others Present: Mayor David E. Weiss  
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer  
Kelly Baker, Recording Assistant  
Barbara Bradley, League of Women Voters

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Robert Zimmerman at 8:02 am.

## **APPROVAL OF JUNE 5, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Council Chair Zimmerman asked if there were any questions, changes or additions to the June 5, 2020, Safety and Public Works Committee minutes. There being none a motion was made by Citizen Member Hren, it was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

## **RECOMMENDATION FOR 2020 & 2021 FLOW MONITORING AND FIELD SERVICES FOR ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION ELLIMINATION (IDDE)**

### **Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works**

Director Speese explained how Public Works has been aggressively pursuing sewer improvements throughout the city for the past several years. She stated that one task that has proven invaluable is flow monitoring which helps determine how much infiltration is getting into the sewer system that shouldn't. Then when the improvements are made, the monitoring tells us what the improvement rate is showing how much we have reduced the Inflow and Infiltration (I & I).

Director Speese stated that we have done this for the two Sanitary Sewer Overflow's (SSO) that we have remediated in the city and we have in the past just done this one at a time. (going out for a price and awarding it) She stated that another valuable part of this happens when we apply for a grant. We don't know the amount of I & I when we are applying for the grant and this information

could help us obtain more grants. She stated that it would be much better and more cost effective to go out for a proposal for this service so we have a firm on hand when needed.

Director Speese described how they submitted proposals to four firms and received two back. They used the quality based evaluation process which is when they firms submit the proposal and the fee is separate in a sealed envelope, the proposal is reviewed based on its merits before looking at the price. AECOM was selected on their merits and they were also the lowest price. She stated that we are saving approximately 30% on cost by having them under contract. Director Speese is recommending approval to proceed with this request for proposal to award AECOM for flow monitoring and field services.

Council Chair Zimmerman ask if there were any questions about the recommendation. Council Member Malone asked if the firm we used last year was AECOM and Director Speese stated that the city has used AECOM, GPD and the County in the past. He also asked if she knew why there was only two bids received. Director Speese stated that it is not a high task job and referred to Citizen Member Hren who has a firm that does this type of work. Citizen Member Hren stated that his firm saw it online but this type of work is specialized and not glamorous and so they did not pursue a bid.

Council Chair Zimmerman asked for a motion to approve this item. A motion was made by Council Member Malone and it was seconded so the motion was approved to move on to council.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

### **Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works**

Director Speese gave an update regarded COVID-19 related. She stated that we did receive the Clorox 360 machines that we ordered with the School District. They are an electrostatic sanitizing machine with a wand and have been used heavily in the Police department and the Court as well as the Fire department and Public Works and will be used throughout various city buildings and have been really helpful. Director Speese stated that the Plexi-glass shields have all been made and installed for various departments throughout the entire city. Getting Plexi-Glass was a big challenge due to a shortage.

Director Speese mentioned that we are meeting with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District about Horseshoe Lake Improvements which appear to be more than was anticipated and more information will be forthcoming.

Director Speese shared a story about Citizen Member Hren who several weeks ago, was participating in the event, when there was construction going on in the Service Yard and Large Item Drop off had to be moved across the street to the parking lot on Saturday. The department had two of its extremely conscientious and friendly employees manning the event (Chaun Shell and Al Aikens, Jr.). An irate resident who was berating them and yelling at them on how inconvenient it was for him by having to go across the street instead of the yard. The two employees were very much taken aback and then another resident, Jonathan Hren, came into the conversation and told the irate resident to back off and not to treat the city employees in that manner. Director Speese stated that we appreciate Jonathan Hren and his support and thanked him for his heroic stance for our employees. Citizen Hren stated that he appreciated the Director for bringing this up. He

described his behavior as a natural reaction to speak up for people who are working for our city. He stated that no one should be disrespected that way and he was happy to help.

Director Speese continued to say everything is moving along fine, all the street resurfacing and waterline projects are wrapping up. It is our busy season and we are staying on or ahead of schedule.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

#### **Jeff DeMuth, Police Chief**

Chief DeMuth stated that during this pandemic we are realizing that operationally within the department we are realizing that a lot of the support personnel cannot work entirely at home and have to be in the office for one reason or another and we are working through the adjustments required to meet the department needs and the team's safety. He stated that the outside operations are nowhere near what they were but the traffic is increasing. He stated they are very very busy from a call-to-service standpoint.

Chief DeMuth talked about the Clorox machine and how they used it to sanitize the training room so we can resume in-service training. He stated the machine has been invaluable. Chief DeMuth spoke about another machine called the Moon Beam Machine that throws out UV light to kill the virus. He spoke of a critical incident that they responded to where the victim tested positive COVID-19 which five officers and five detectives were exposed to because of assisting and interviewing the victim. Also all the evidence had to be sanitized and the Clorox 360 Machine is perfect for that task.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

#### **Patrick Sweeney, Fire Chief**

Chief Sweeney started his report stating the Fire Department has a steady number of patients every week that they are transporting to the hospital that are positive patients. We receives notification from the hospital so the crews are diligent with using the correct PPE and using the Clorox 360 machine. He stated that the Moon Beam Machine will be part of the department's regular routine as well.

Chief Sweeney stated that the PPE supplies are sufficient. He stated that each time they are transporting a positive patient he reaches out to the entire crew to make sure they wore the appropriate PPE and he uses it as a tool to remind them not to get complacent. Chief Sweeney said he is waiting to hear about a number of grants they applied for that will allow them to replenish a lot of the PPE. He also stated that they began training again with University Hospital who brings in physicians and instructor to maintain their continuing education requirements.

Chief Sweeney talked about the fires in the Heights areas. Stated that there have been a number of significant fires, mentioning a few on Pennington that would most likely be raised in the near future. He stated that he was appreciative that to date no one has been infected in the department.

Council Chair Zimmerman asked if the Chief felt there were more fires because more people are home for more time and the Chief didn't believe that was the case.

Chief DeMuth added information about the protests and rallies in the area and during this time the Police department has had to mobilize many officers, up to 30 at times, for the safety and security

for all those involved, for the City of Shaker Heights as well as surrounding areas. He stated he is grateful no one has been infected during those times.

### **UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR**

#### **Mayor David E. Weiss**

Mayor Weiss talked about the mask requirements and the commentary regarding the use of masks. He stated that the businesses were required to wear them but the patrons were not, unless the business required them to. Now that the spike in cases over the past two weeks, there is talk of closing the gap of requiring masks. He stated the question is who has the authority to do something. He is hopeful and encouraged that the governor's office would take action and initially they did not and so we were looking at what the county might do and what we can do at the city level.

Council Member Earl Williams asked the Mayor about the money the city received from the CARES Act and how it would be appropriated so that we would not have to return unused funds. He asked if the mayor could advise us when and where the money would be used. The Mayor advised that the CARES Act money were earmarked for passage from federal government to the state and from the state to local governments. Each state had the discretion on how to use the funds with restrictions. The City of Shaker Heights received about \$760,000. The requirement is that these monies are used specifically for COVID related expenses. There are still a lot of conversations as to getting clarification on what is considered COVID related. Some items are clear such as the Clorox and Moon Beam machines, others were more confusing such as allocations of salaries of first responders dealing with COVID patients and it's still not clear and there is a lack of guidance from the federal government. The Mayor stated he is confident that we will use all the funds.

Citizen Member Harris asked Chief DeMuth if the department is supplied with masks that they are ready to share with the community when they have encounters with them. Chief DeMuth stated that there is enough supply for the department's internal use and masks that they will supply to the public at the station, but currently they are not dispersing them on the streets. Citizen Member Harris asked if they were encountering residents that don't have masks when they are dealing with the community. Chief DeMuth stated he does not know the rate of residents wearing masks or not. The Mayor stated that initially there was a shortfall and that at the beginning of the pandemic it was much less an option to hand out masks. He stated it was a great suggestion and that it would clearly qualify for the funds for the CARES Act funding that were discussed.

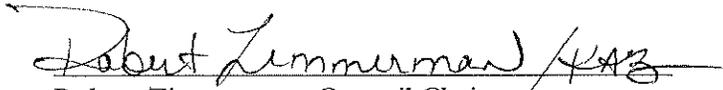
The Mayor talked about the city's concern for a need for response to situations involving mental health issues. He stated this has been on our radar for some time and while the training of our officers has increased over time, the bottom line is they are not social workers, trained psychologists, or medical professionals who know about proper medication doses. The Mayor stated he would like this committee to address this topic and start putting together gathered information in one location. He has already begun collecting information and has had conversation with Council Member Earl Williams on this issue.

Council Member Earl Williams stated that he appreciated the Mayor commenting on the opportunities in the area. He stated that his small practice representing probate court psychiatric hearings. He mentioned the Crisis Intervention Training organization (CIT) who are active with the Cleveland Police department and respond to situations where there are psychiatric or other issues. He just wanted to make sure the City of Shaker Heights knew this resource was available.

The Mayor suggested that the information should be vetted through this committee and that Kelly Baker can keep all the information in one location.

Council Chair Zimmerman thanked everyone for participating.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Zimmerman" followed by a stylized monogram "RZ".

Robert Zimmerman, Council Chairperson  
Safety & Public Works Committee