



# SHAKER HEIGHTS

**SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 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  
Kimberly Harris, Citizen Member  
James Sammon, Citizen Member  
Patricia Speese, Director Public Works  
Jeffrey DeMuth, Chief of Police

Others Present: Mayor David E. Weiss  
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer  
James Heath, Assistant Fire Chief  
Kelly Baker, Recording Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Robert Zimmerman at 8:10 am.

Council Chair Zimmerman made an acknowledgement of the difficult week the police and fire departments have had referencing the loss of life on Parkland Road.

Chief DeMuth mentioned the Cleveland Police officer who was shot and killed and also a Shaker police officer, while chasing a suspect, was injured and may be out of work for a while. He stated that the department is doing as well as can be expected.

Assistant Fire Chief Heath stated that it was a traumatic call and they had to debrief the firemen.

Council Chair Zimmerman reminded everyone that these departments don't receive a lot of calls when things are great, just when things are wrong and people are in distress and offered them the committees support and thanks.

## **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 7, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Council Chair Zimmerman asked if there were any questions, changes or additions to the August 7, 2020, Safety and Public Works Committee minutes. A motion was made by Citizen Member Hren, it was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR ALDERSYDE ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT DESIGN**

**Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works**

Director Speese stated that Cleveland Water Department has a competitive waterline funding program that a lot of communities apply for. The City has applied for this fund for Aldersyde Road by the high school due to the numerous problems they have had with that waterline. Last year they were denied and went to CWD to see how they could improve their chances and this year they were awarded the funding for an estimated cost of \$593,153.

Director Speese explained that PW received a total of five proposals for design services for the waterline. After a Quality Based Selection (QBS) process and an interview was completed the team selected DLZ. She stated they are requesting approval to award the design services contract to DLZ in the amount of \$46,182.

Council Chair Zimmerman asked how the QBS process works. He wondered if the price quotes were included in the bid and at what point are they reviewed. Director Speese stated that when a bid is submitted they are required to submit two sealed packages. One with the proposal and a separate package with the price. The price package is not opened until after the review of the proposal and interview is complete and a selection based on merit is made. Then the price is reviewed.

Council Chair Zimmerman wanted to know if any of the prices reflect negotiation. Director Speese stated it reflects what they bid.

Council Member Carmella Williams asked if there was consideration for minority or women owned businesses. Director Speese stated there are no additional points given, however in this case the MBE was the best proposal. Council Member Carmella Williams clarified that she was referring to inviting minority or women owned businesses to bid on the work. Director Speese said that they were invited and CAO Chaikin stated that all city departments have access to the Certified MBE and WBE lists used by other governmental entities from whom to solicit proposals.

Council Member Malone asked if CWD would pay for the design work in addition to the construction. Director Speese stated that is correct. He also asked about the difference between a QBS and lowest and best process. Director Speese stated that the lowest and best process would be used when they are bidding for individual items and a proposal for professional services would be when they need to use a QBS process for more creative work such as designing a waterline.

Council Member Malone asked when to expect construction to begin and Director Speese indicated our intention is not during the school year, but to begin next summer.

Council Chair Zimmerman asked for more questions or comments, there being no more a motion was made by Council Member Malone, it was seconded and the motion passed.

Director Speese mentioned that they just found out that they received funding for a new waterline for Warrington Road and that will be presented to this committee in the near future.

Mayor Weiss thanked Director Speese and her team for the efforts. He mentioned all the breaks on Aldersyde and he is happy this is moving forward.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR BRANTLEY ROAD SEWER IMPROVEMENTS DESIGN**

**Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works**

Director Speese stated that in June of 2015 we had a storm that concentrated on the Brantley Road area sewers and they received a lot of flooding in that area. There was a lot of extensive work done and they found that the sewers were running under the tree lawn and there are a lot of trees causing an abundance of root infiltration. They have made repairs, cleared the roots and replaced some segments of the sewer.

Director Speese explained that a year and a half ago council approved to have all utilities pay to have the city provide an onsite inspector to protect our assets (sewers, trees, items in the right of way, etc). Part of the onsite inspection process is to televise the sewers ahead of time to document the condition and then televise after the project. What they were finding is after the utility would leave the project, then about a year or two later a tree would fail or significant damage to the sewers/streets would occur. Dominion Gas did a huge project on WCR and Brantley Road was a part of that project. When they did the pre-televising of the sewer lines, they advised the city that they needed to come out to the site immediately since their camera could not get through the sanitary sewer line.

Director Speese stated after reviewing the video they discovered that 85% of the sanitary sewer on Brantley Road was destroyed. Brantley Road is in the Northeast Quadrant of the City and Public Works is currently rehabilitating and working on the sewers in that area. This project falls under that scope of work. The pipe is caved in but the flow is still getting through, however they need to fast track this project. She indicated that the storm is not in great shape but she is hopeful it can be lined.

A RFP was prepared for engineering proposals for this project which will significantly involve University Schools who have also had problems they had not reported to the city. We received 7 proposals and based on the QBS scores GPD had the highest based on merit and were fairly priced. There was one proposal that was priced extremely high and they reached out to them to question the amount bid. The firm indicated they mistakenly bid too high. In the proposal PW indicated they wanted the sewers to be removed away from the tree lawn if possible.

Director Speese requested an approval to enter into a contact with GPD for the design services for Brantley Road sewer improvement at a cost of \$49,871.00

Council Member Malone asked if these services are being paid for by the city and Director Speese advised that the city will be paying for these services through the debt service funding, partially from this year's funds and partially from next year's funds.

CAO Chaikin commented that Director Speese put together a summary of sewer projects that have been funded from the sewer fund. She suggested that this be presented at another meeting in the future.

Council Chair Zimmerman asked if there were any other questions. There being none a motion was made by Council Member Carmella Williams, it was seconded and the motion passed.

Director Speese commented that they and received a grant from NEORSD for the Lomond/Lynnfield SSO.

## REVIEW OF 2020 RESIDENT DEER QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

### **Jeri Chaikin, CAO and Jeffrey DeMuth, Chief of Police**

CAO Chaikin stated that the Wildlife Task Force asked that the review of the 2020 Resident Questionnaire results and recommendations be brought to this committee. She stated next month they would hold a joint Safety and Public Works Committee with the Wildlife Task Force to consider the contract with Precision Wildlife Management for this season's deer culling program.

CAO Chaikin provided the 2019 and 2020 results and addressed some key points. In the resident questionnaire results deer were considered abundant in 2019 at 70.69% and that was down to 64% in 2020. When asked if they would like to see less deer, in 2019 almost 53% said yes and in 2020 it was about 47%. When asked if they would like to see a slight, moderate or substantial decrease in deer, in 2019 72.4% said yes and in 2020 it was 69%. She stated the numbers are coming down slightly, but there are still a majority of the respondents who feel the deer are overabundant and are interested in seeing fewer deer.

Council Earl Williams asked if there was a breakdown as to the residents living north of the Fernway versus those living south of Fernway. He stated that there seems to be more deer in North Shaker. CAO Chaikin stated that they did not sort by neighborhood but she would sort it that way.

Citizen Member Sammon asked how the surveys were sent out or solicited. CAO Chaikin explained that since they have been doing this for about four years, they have done it by posting on the website, the City's FB page and all the neighborhood FB pages. In the past two years she stated there have been about 230 respondents.

CAO Chaikin stated the action recommended from the Wildlife Task Force was based on ODNR's formula for determining the number of deer culling permits that they will give the city. According to the formula Shaker had a 38% growth rate in deer without culling and a 4-5% growth rate with culling. With the COVID restrictions and residents being home more, they are feeding the deer and the deer are avoiding the bait sites and are moving from public lands to the Cleveland owned Highland Park Cemetery. They also learned that it is more costly to donate deer meat to the Cleveland food bank because they require a USDA processor at a cost of \$2000 more. The food processor who donates to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Charity does not have to be USDA certified and the committee felt they should save the \$2000. The task force asked that they approach the city of Cleveland about culling at the Highland Park Cemetery and the Golf Course, approach the Nature Center as well as the Shaker Heights Country Club. The cities contractor states that he sees a lot of deer on private property and the task force felt he could approach the owner and ask if they support a culling and if so, the contractor would follow the process.

CAO Chaikin said the next step would be to present the contract with Precision Wildlife Management at the next joint committee meeting for approval, then to finance and then to Council. The idea is to get the contract in place so that Mr. Mariano could start lining things up in November and start the culling season in early December. She stated there are funds in the Police Department budget for this service.

Council Chair Zimmerman stated that it is important that the committee understand that we are working hard to keep things the way they are or else they will go back to the way they were. He stated that we are reaching out to the neighbors for support and are not getting a great response for a proactive effort.

Council Member Malone asked about the measurement of the deer population and about the ODNR growth rate. He said he remembered a couple of years ago they did an aerial survey. Chief DeMuth explain that he didn't really understand the formula as well as he wanted to and not sure ODNR understands the formula either. He does understand that the variables used for the formula has to do with what they believe our population is, how many we have harvested over the years, how many fetus' were involved in the harvesting, what they know about reproductive rates of deer and the age of the herd. This makes the formula very complex. He stated that our data is an antidotal look at what is happening. He said he understands the amount of deer we have harvested in 5 years and the amount of fetus' involved, then looks at the numbers from Public Works, which is a record of dead dear that are recovered and numbers of injured dear, and they remain pretty consistent. Based on the information we have the herd is not getting any bigger but it's not being reduced either. Council Member Malone asked if they are slowing the rate of deer population and Chief DeMuth stated that we know for sure that if we didn't do anything we would have tripled our herd population in two years.

Council Chair Zimmerman stated there is a lot of emotion around this and the residents are demanding action and we are taking action.

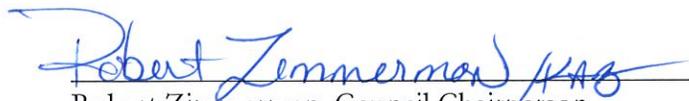
Other Topic

Council Member Earl Williams asked Chief DeMuth about Police Compensation and if he could provide a comparison to what our officers are being paid versus surrounding communities.

Chief DeMuth stated the important aspect is understanding how collective bargaining agreements lag behind others and it makes it hard to make a comparison. What information we have from the city attorney is that our police department is below the mid-level in compensation for the county. He stated he can provide a comparison.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 am.

Respectfully,

  
Robert Zimmerman, Council Chairperson  
Safety & Public Works Committee