

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, July 26, 2016, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Ron Christianson	Chair
	Audrey Nelsen	Vice Chair
	Steve Ahmann	Member
	Andrew Plowman	Member

Others present: Council Member Rick Fagerlie; City Administrator Larry Kruse; Public Works Director Sean Christensen; Director of Planning and Development Services Bruce Peterson; Chief of Police Jim Felt; Fire Chief Frank Hanson; Shelby Lindrud "West Central Tribune"; Terry Frazee; Richard Falk; Jon Winge; Kelly Welch; Suzanne Wilson.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christianson at 4:45 p.m.

Item No. 2 Public Comment

Citizens brought forth concerns of the proposed sidewalk pathway to be constructed to connect 23rd Street SE crossing Branch 3 of Ditch 23A to the new elementary school. Public Works Director Christensen noted the 30 foot utility easement containing dry utilities and a storm drain to be utilized for pedestrian access. The required 10 foot path will be maintained by the City and there will be no expenses to the homeowners surrounding it.

Item No. 3 Police and Fire Updates (Information)

Chief Felt noted the jail census for July 26, 2016 was 123; 41 inmates from the Department of Corrections, 65 inmates from Kandiyohi County and 17 inmates from other counties. The calls for service the previous two weeks totaled 895 and are 9 days ahead of this date last year. The majority of the calls for the previous two weeks were for traffic stops, followed by public assists and suspicious people/vehicles. The Committee discussed suspicious activity in the Garfield neighborhood. The Committee noted National Night Out is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 2nd. Administrator Kruse noted the outstanding efforts of the Police Department and Public Works Department on making the Rockin' Robbins and Jennie O' Turkey Store events a success.

Chief Hanson noted total Fire Department total calls for service in the previous two weeks totaled 11. The calls included 4 alarm activations, 2 car fires, 1 weather watch, 1 medical assist, 1 car crash, 1 cooking fire, and 1 public assist. The total calls for service this year is 177, compared to 200 calls in 2015. The dispatch to on scene time currently is 6 minutes 58 seconds.

Item No. 4 Boat Ramp Monitoring (Motion)

Mr. Terry Frazee and Mr. Richard Falk brought forth, for information, boat ramp monitoring devices for aquatic invasive species at Willmar and Foot Lake. The lake associations have funds to contribute to the \$7,500 cost of the device, as well as the AIS Committee and Kandiyohi County. The I-LIDS monitors are unmanned systems placed at boat landings to monitor boat landing activities, capture video events. Videos encourage compliance with aquatic invasive species clean-off laws.

A motion was made by Council Member Nelsen, seconded by Council Member Ahmann for staff to proceed with research on the monitors and bring a final recommendation to Council. The motion carried.

Item No. 5 Director Update (Information)

Public Works Director Christensen brought forth, for information, an update on activities within the Public Works, Engineering and Wastewater departments.

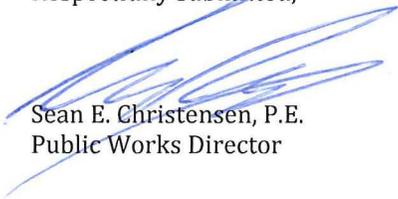
- 2nd Street SW- Phase 1 concrete is complete, with the project scheduled to be complete by August 5th.
- Technology Drive NE parking lot repair- valley gutter and final wearing course is complete and the parking lot is now being utilized.
- Lion's Dog Park- waterline construction has begun.
- Robbins Island entrance- has been excavated and culverts installed. The new entrance could be complete by the next Rockin' Robbins event on August 16th.
- MPCA audit- The City is currently under an MPCA audit as the result of a settling pond bank breach at the site of the new elementary school. Follow up correspondence was received from the MPCA regarding corrections from their inspection of the Westwood Court Lift Station.
- Lift Station Updates- The Country Club Drive lift station building is currently being constructed. The Westwood Court lift station has the patch work and seeding done, the building is under construction and the roads are now open. The Fairgrounds lift station is at the 80% design stage, with research going into possible easements and right of way needs.
- Willmar Wye Update- Staff is currently attending project management updates via phone conferences and in-person meetings. Discussions are currently taking place to decide if the project merits the necessity of a 1st Ave crossing.
- 2016 Street Projects- Notices to property owners have been dispersed for construction starting on 15th Avenue SW and 7 ½ Street SW. A Press Release has been issued for construction scheduled to start on Minnesota Avenue SW on July 28th. A Press Release has also been issued for Lakeland Drive NE, as it will be temporarily closed between Litchfield Avenue and the railroad crossing on August 1st for water main improvements.

Item No. 6 Non-Agenda Items (Information)

The Committee discussed the possibility of a traffic and speed study along Willmar Avenue SE by the Middle School and on Lakeland Drive SE in front of the new elementary school site. Administrator Kruse noted the Eagle Lake Sanitary Sewer agreement is set to expire and staff has met with the County to discuss the terms of the agreement. A letter is planned to be written to extend the agreement so a facility study can be completed to determine their needs. The Civic Center Arena roof is scheduled to be advertised for bids this week with bids to be opened in August and a scheduled completion date of December.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m. by Chair Christianson.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean E. Christensen, P.E.
Public Works Director