

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT 13-02
CITY OF WILLMAR
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2013

A meeting of the Public Works/Safety Committee was called to order at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2013, by Chairman Ron Christianson at the City Office Building. Members present were: Council Members Bruce DeBlieck and Steve Ahmann. Also present were: Council Member Jim Dokken; Charlene Stevens, City Administrator; Bruce Peterson, Planning and Development Services Director; Dave Wyffels, Police Chief; Gary Hendrickson, Fire Chief; Jared Voge, Bolton and Menk; and David Little, "West Central Tribune."

1. 2013 IMPROVEMENT REPORT (RESOLUTION):

Staff presented the Improvement Report for 2013 Projects (see Attachment A). There were four categories of improvements included in the report. Those four categories were reconstruction, overlay, new construction, and miscellaneous such as trails, quiet zones, and sidewalks. The Committee discussed the project schedule and briefly reviewed several of the projects.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, and passed for the following:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive the report and set the Improvement Hearing for 7:03 p.m., February 19, 2013. (Resolution)

2. WILLMAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

The committee briefly discussed the 2003 Transportation Plan, specifically as it relates to identified issues and projects. There was general agreement that a significant portion of the plan has been accomplished. The need for a new or revised plan was discussed. The committee was informed that the Capital Improvement Program shows funding for a revised transportation plan in 2015. That schedule will be maintained unless some significant transportation issue arises that requires immediate attention.

3. MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDMENT FOR FALSE ALARMS (MOTION):

Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson presented a proposal to change the way the City charges for false alarms (see Attachment B). The current ordinance charges \$250.00 for false alarms, with five false alarms allowed per year without charge. The new ordinance proposes a \$500.00 charge per false alarm. It would require fire alarm systems to be registered. Charges would be waived for the owner providing evidence of system servicing and repair. The new proposal also allows discretion by the Fire Chief in assessing charges. The committee discussed implementation of the ordinance and how to best involve the current owners of fire alarm systems.

A motion was made by Council Member DeBlieck, seconded by Council Member Dokken, and passed for the following:

RECOMMENDATION:

Introduce the Ordinance for a public hearing on March 4, 2013. (Motion)

4. ORDINANCE FINE AMOUNTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

Police Chief David Wyffels informed the committee that he was in the process of reviewing multiple ordinances that assess fines for violations, so the fine amounts would be available for the E-charging process. The fine amounts will be aggregated into a database for use in E-ticketing or E-charging.

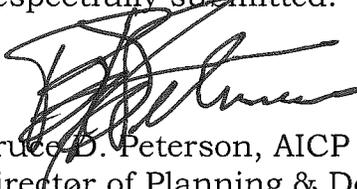
5. MISCELLANEOUS:

Staff informed the committee that the process would soon begin to acquire the easement for the Willmar Avenue Quiet Zone. The issue of easement acquisition will be taken to the Planning Commission at their next meeting in keeping with Charter requirements.

Council Member Ahmann raised the issue of the possibility of widening ditches to increase storm water storage. The matter was referred to Bolton & Menk for more information regarding the City's legal authority and capacity for doing so.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Bruce D. Peterson, AICP
Director of Planning & Development Services