

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Ron Christianson Chair
	Audrey Nelsen Vice Chair
	Bruce DeBlieck Member
	Steve Ahmann Member

Others present: Mayor Frank Yanish; Council Member Tim Johnson; Council Member Jim Dokken; Director of Planning and Development Services Bruce Peterson; Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson, Police Chief David Wyffels; Public Works Superintendent Scott Ledebor; Interim City Engineer Jared Voge; and David Little, "West Central Tribune".

Item No. 1 Call to Order

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

Item No. 2 Public Comments

No public comments.

Item No. 3 2014 Improvement Projects (Resolution)

Jared Voge, Interim City Engineer, presented the proposed 2014 Improvement Projects. The projects consist of three parts; those parts being new construction, reconstruction, and overlay, and also includes Willmar Avenue street lighting across the former airport. The preliminary engineering report was presented and discussed (see attachment). The next step in the process is for the Council to receive the preliminary engineering report and call for a hearing on the improvements. Council member DeBlieck expressed concern about street lighting on the north side of Willmar Avenue being a safety issue. It was also asked if concrete could be bid as an alternate for the new construction and reconstruction projects. Those items will be addressed prior to the hearing. Council member Ahmann raised questions about street condition ratings and project prioritization. Staff responded that conditions are analyzed every two years and streets are prioritized for rehabilitation work. The determining factor for the size and scope of an improvement project is typically the availability of funding.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Council member Ahmann, seconded by Council member DeBlieck and passed for the following: To adopt the resolution receiving the preliminary engineering report and calling for a hearing on the 2014 Improvement Projects at the March 17, 2014 meeting.

Item No. 4 Old Business (Information)

There was no other business.

Item No. 5 New Business (Information)

Council member Ahmann explained why he previously voted against the purchase of the inspections vehicle. He said the City needed a more detailed vehicle mechanical analysis process for future purchases.

Snow Removal Update: Public Works Superintendent Scott Ledeboer presented information about snow removal and water main breaks (see attachment). Overtime hours are up compared to 2012 and 2013. Water main breaks are also up due to the extreme depth of frost.

Police Department Update: Police Chief Dave Wyffels offered an update on Police Department activities (see attachment). He noted that calls are up due to the weather, primarily in the area of automobile crashes and domestic violence.

Fire Department Update: Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson provided an update on Fire Department activities. In 2013 there were 274 fire calls with \$5.5 million in property loss. So far in 2014 there have been 48 fire calls. Chief Hendrickson offered fire safety tips for wood burners and candle use. He noted that the department recently hired five new firefighters and they have completed 90 of the 160 hours of training required for Firefighter I and II. He also mentioned that the department would soon hire new clerical staff.

Chair Christianson asked Public Works Superintendent Ledeboer to look into snow melting equipment to reduce snow removal and hauling.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35p.m. by Chair Christianson.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce D. Peterson', written over a horizontal line.

Bruce D. Peterson, AICP
Acting Public Works Director