

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

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

Others present: Public Works Director Sean Christensen; Director of Planning and Development Bruce Peterson; Chief of Police Jim Felt; Fire Chief Frank Hanson; Jason VerSteeg, Duininck Inc.; Kathy Schwantes and Rachel Skretvedt, Destination Playground Co-Chairs; Stephen Deleski; Shelby Lindrud "West Central Tribune".

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christianson at 5:15 p.m.

Item No. 2 Public Comment

Stephen Deleski inquired about his previous request at the November 15th Committee Meeting regarding sanitary sewer service concerns. Public Works Director Christensen noted there has been no response from MnDOT yet on their responsibility for repairs and reiterated per ordinance it was not a City issue because it is a private sewer service off of the main.

Item No. 3 Police and Fire Updates (Information)

Chief Felt noted the jail census for November 29, 2016 was 121; 24 inmates from the Department of Corrections, 80 inmates from Kandiyohi County and 17 inmates from other counties. The calls for service the previous two weeks totaled 723 and are 1 day 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 abandoned vehicles. The decrease in calls reflects the 3 officers the department is short at this time. 2 new hire officers are currently in field training and are expected to be finished in March. The Committee discussed licensure of various cab services in the City.

Chief Hanson noted total Fire Department total calls for service in the previous two weeks totaled 14. The calls included 8 alarm activations, 5 crashes and 1 smoke in a building. The total calls for service this year is 301, compared to 329 calls in 2015. 4 new firefighters recently started, bringing their total to 40 firefighters for the department. Chief Hanson noted fire safety tips for the winter months including monitoring your Christmas tree if it becomes too dry and being observant of lit candles in your home.

Item No. 4 Destination Playground Update (Information)

Members of the Destination Playground committee presented an update on progress of the playground including an updated rendering to detail the different types of equipment and play areas. Ms. Skretvedt noted personalized recycled composite material fence pickets are available for purchase for \$75. They will be placed around the perimeter of the playground and the proceeds of the sales go directly to the project. Jason VerSteeg, with Duininck Inc., presented an updated drainage plan of the playground and discussed the drain tile upgrades. Public Works Director Christensen noted staff concerns of the freeze/thaw cycles with the tiling, which could create an issue in the soccer field, and the previous 2 ½ foot proximity to the road which has now been increased to 10 ½ feet. Staff has also spoken to arborists regarding the encroachment of the drip lines of existing trees in the park, with Ms. Skretvedt noting the issue is being addressed.

Item No. 5 Delegated Wastewater Pretreatment Program Ordinance Amendment (Resolution)

Public Works Director Christensen brought forth, for approval, the introduction of the ordinance amending Willmar Municipal Code as required to implement the Delegated Wastewater Pretreatment Program for significant industrial users and set a Public Hearing for December 19th.

A motion was made by Council Member Plowman, seconded by Council Member Nelsen to approve the introduction of the ordinance amending Willmar Municipal Code, Chapter 16, Utilities, Article III, Sanitary Sewer System, as required to implement the Delegated Wastewater Pretreatment Program and set a Public Hearing for December 19th, 2016. The motion carried.

Item No. 6 Willmar Wye Update (Information)

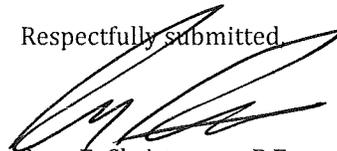
Staff brought forth, for information, an update on the development of the Wye project. Staff is seeking direction from Council regarding the parallel (siding) track and 1st Avenue at-grade crossing prior to the Master Agreement meeting on November 30th. Following discussion, the Committee directed staff to convey the City is requesting the at-grade crossing and accept the single track being constructed initially with the ability to further negotiate for the second track.

Item No. 7 Non-Agenda Items (Information)

The Committee discussed the snow emergency ordinance and clarification of procedures for removing snow around cars and along the sidewalks. The Committee also discussed the ordinance of parking cars on lawns.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. by Chair Christianson.

Respectfully submitted,



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