

STREETS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MINUTES
OF APRIL 23, 2018

Municipal Council of the City of Vermilion
Municipal Complex, 685 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

In Attendance: **Vermilion City Council:**
Steve Herron, President of Council; Monica Stark, Council at Large; John Gabriel, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five

Administration:
Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director

Call to Order: Frank Loucka, Chairman, RESOLVED THAT this Streets, Buildings, & Grounds Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

TOPIC ONE: Highbridge Road Bridge Update

Chris Howard reported that the drilled shafts for both abutments have been drilled and poured. The north abutment footing was poured last week. The forms for the north abutment beam seat and wing walls are being set tomorrow. The reinforcing steel for the south abutment footing is being set today with the intent of pouring the footing this week, weather permitting. Once the north abutment is completed, (beam seats and wing walls) they will move to the south abutment. The structural steel and bearings have been fabricated so they are ready to be delivered. The project is scheduled to be completed by October 5. There are two changes orders that will be forthcoming. There was a fiber optic line that was located on the north abutment wall. They didn't want to relocate it so they worked around it by hand digging, so there are costs associated. The existing 16" water line that runs under the railroad tracks had a 30" steel casing. There were some test holes that were done as they were concerned with the location as it actually would have been right through two of the drill shafts, so there was some down time and redesign to bridge the gap, so the north abutment had some changes. There will be costs associated with this as well. Once he receives the numbers from K.E. McCartney he will present them to City Council. These changes will not change the October 5 completion date.

B. Brady asked if these issues are things they should have known. C. Howard said both issues were unforeseen. Mayor Forthofer gave credit to C. Howard and T. Valerius for finding the 16" water line as it wasn't where it was supposed to be based on previous drawings. C. Howard extended the credit to Charlie Grisel of the Distribution Department and Mosser Construction for doing a good job and taking care of this.

TOPIC TWO: Phase I – Vermilion Road Paving Project

C. Howard explained the plans are for the resurfacing of Vermilion Road from Liberty Avenue to Brownhelm Station Road; approximately 1.17 miles. The stage two plans were

submitted last September and there were minor comments that have been addressed. Final plans, specifications, and estimates are due to the district on October 1, 2018. The proposed project sale date is January of 2019. Proposed construction is slated to start March 19, with constructed to be completed by October of 2019. The estimated construction cost which is an 80/20 split with the Erie County MPO is \$1,019,370. The Erie County MPO cap is \$815,496 and the city's portion is \$203,874.

F. Loucka asked if the bridge south of N&S (one curb) is included in the project because it is completely disintegrating. C. Howard said the plans call for 4" mill and fill and repaving. It doesn't address this bridge; besides repaving plans only include shoulder rehabilitation and subsurface drainage. F. Loucka said the east side is deteriorating but the west side is perfectly fine, and the sidewalks are sunk and the curb is broken, which doesn't give a good impression when traveling into the city.

B. Brady noted the Vermilion Road project wasn't included on the road improvement levy funding spreadsheet. C. Howard said this project is slated for next year. B. Brady said they should add this project to the spreadsheet. She asked what happens if the city doesn't have the money; do they look really bad with Erie County. C. Howard said this project has been slated and F. Loucka said it was already committed. C. Howard explained there is another phase to this project through the Erie County MPO, which will go from Brownhelm Station Road to Jerusalem Road. He will provide the City with a proposal for the design of the next phase. M. Stark asked how soon the next phase will come into effect. C. Howard said it is slated for 2020.

TOPIC THREE: Haber Road Bridge

C. Howard reported the city received a letter from Erie County indicating that the Haber Road Bridge is one of the worse in the county and needs to be replaced. It needs to be done within the next two years and it's a 50/50 split between the county and the city. There are funding options they can look into. F. Loucka asked if the deadline with the county is two years from now. C. Howard said they need to work through this with the county, but the county doesn't have the funding this year for the work. S. Holovac pointed out this is more of a culvert bridge, so they aren't looking at major dollars.

TOPIC FOUR: Review of Ordinance 2015-7

J. Gabriel referred to Ordinance 2015-7 as Council at that time had stated they wanted inspection services for projects to be separate from design engineering. However, it could be cost prohibited, especially with projects such as the Adams Street Water Line Replacement Project, the Bar Screen, or the Water Tower Stem. He would like council to consider changing this to more of a case by case basis, so with smaller projects they don't have to put out the expense of having the engineer put together documentation for professional services, as the city engineer is more than capable of handling the smaller projects. If they get into a large project, then literally on a case by case basis they can say they are more comfortable with separate inspection services. He thought when this ordinance was adopted it was a cost savings measure due to economic times. G. Fisher asked if his intent was to repeal Ordinance 2015-7. J. Gabriel said they could repeal it or

create one that has a blanket statement addressing that inspection services will be required on a case by case or project by project basis as council deems fit.

S. Herron asked J. Gabriel if he would be proposing changing Section 2 of the current ordinance to eliminate the wording “whereby the engineering firm cannot be the same firm who performs the engineering and bidding services related to such projects within the City of Vermilion, Ohio. J. Gabriel said yes and to replace it with language to the affect that council may require inspection services separate from design.

S. Holovacs thought he brought the Ordinance to council in 2015 and he can agree with this amendment, but thought they should still follow the rules with ODOT projects; that if you design it you cannot be the construction manager. He said for example, Bramhall’s firm may not be able to design a project, but they could be a construction manager since they are in house.

Mayor Forthofer said he has no problem with this change, but at what point as it relates to projects, do they determine which project is not big enough with the exception of ODOT. S. Holovacs said there are projects that Bramhall doesn’t design. There are other people who do specialize in the design and they do it for a living. Therefore, they go outside to find an engineer to do the work.

B. Brady said they enacted this ordinance to protect the city as they have had some projects that have gone south in the past because they didn’t have two people looking at it. She said they are depending on the acting council’s to make this decision and some members of council are stronger or weaker and are able to say no, but some won’t be able to. She asked if council had the option to override the ordinance if they decide they want the same people. F. Loucka said council reserves the right to amend the ordinance at any time. B. Brady said she would like to err on the side of caution and say they are going to do it this way, unless they decide not to.

S. Holovacs said it comes down to the company you hire and the quality of the individuals or inspectors on the job. With experience they ask the questions and stop the problems before they become a problem. J. Gabriel said when they are doing projects that are pretty cut and dry then it seems silly by adding a layer to it. He was comfortable with B. Brady’s conservative approach, but if they are doing mill and fill blacktop projects or basic projects then this is what he would be referring to.

S. Holovacs feels they need a construction manager on the job when you have an outside contractor doing work for the city. They need a person there to represent the city. He noted he has no problems amending this ordinance.

F. Loucka said he will work with the clerk on amending the language in Section 2 of the ordinance and will refer this to the May Legislative meeting for further review.

Chairman Frank Loucka adjourned the meeting after no further discussion came before the committee.

Next meeting: May 14, 2018

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk
