

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved February 7, 2013

## MINUTES

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

December 6, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum.** Chairman Dzierzanowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll Call found Aldermen James Beifuss, Nanette Connelly, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, Alan Murphy, James Smith and John Smith present. Alderman Russell Radkiewicz was absent.

Also in attendance were Public Works Director Robert Flatter, Assistant City Engineer Doug Nooden, and Administrative Secretary Michelle Baldino.

Others in attendance were John Bowman, CH2MHill/OMI and Michael Young, RJN Group, Inc.

2. **Approval of Minutes.**

A. **Infrastructure Committee Minutes of November 1, 2012.** Alderman Nanette Connelly made a motion to approve the Infrastructure Committee Minutes of November 1, 2012, seconded by Alderman John Smith. Voting Yea: Aldermen Nanette Connelly, John Smith, James Beifuss, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, Alan Murphy and James Smith. Voting Nay: 0.

3. **Public Participation / Presentations.**

A. **Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey Report for Lift Stations 5, 7, 9, & 12 – RJN Group, Inc.** Mr. Flatter introduced Michael Young of RJN Group, Inc. Mr. Young provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey Report (SSES) which was handed out at the November 1<sup>st</sup> Infrastructure Committee meeting. Included in the SSES is the evaluation of the City's sanitary sewer collection system in the areas tributary to Lift Stations 5, 7, 9, and 12. The evaluation was performed in order to investigate inflow and infiltration (I&I) into the City's sewer system, and the report details investigation findings from smoke testing, manhole inspections, rain events, and sewer televising along with recommendations to correct the I&I conditions.

Mr. Young stated that there were many private sewers found within the evaluation area, resulting in sources of clear water getting into the City's sanitary sewer system which is something that the City will need to address. Mr. Flatter stated that there are provisions within the Sewer Ordinance of the City Code and violations need to be addressed with the use of Code Enforcement from the City's Community Development Department.

Alderman Beifuss said that after the studies have been performed and repairs have been made, what subsequent plans are in place in order to test the earlier assumptions. How will the City know that this

program will meet the intended goal of the I&I reduction? Mr. Flatter explained that after at least one-half of the City's infrastructure has been evaluated, flow into the Wastewater Treatment Plant will be monitored. Follow up flow monitoring should show a decrease in overall flows during wet weather conditions. Alderman Murphy asked if there was an estimated figure for reduction in I&I. Mr. Young informed him that the reduction will most likely be in the range of 15%-20% for total flow. Mr. Flatter said that the engineering estimate for improvements tributary to Lift Stations 5, 7, 9 and 12, including design, construction, and oversight, will be approximately \$286,000.00.

Mr. Flatter stated that the next area of study is expected to show many illegal stormwater connections (i.e. sump pumps and downspouts connected directly to the City's sanitary system) and staff will seek direction from Committee on how to proceed with these findings once the study has been completed. The City will need to enforce corrective measures, but it may be extremely costly to the homeowners. Alderman Murphy stated that the City needs to be proactive, not reactive to these situations. He stated that there should be an overhead sewer program in place for homeowners. Mr. Flatter stated that he agrees, but the magnitude of the problem's cost is unclear. A program can be implemented, but at this time, the need is unknown. Alderman Murphy suggested that staff survey other communities regarding this need and budgetary issues. Mr. Young stated that the results of these studies will aid the City to determine the focus on corrective measures.

#### **4. Items for Consent.**

Chairman Dzierzanowski read the items for consent. Alderman Beifuss requested discussion of item 4.B.

**Alderman Nanette Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman James Smith to recommend approval of:**

- A. Resolution No. 12-R-0117 – Contract Award – 2013 Sanitary Sewer and Manhole Rehabilitation Program.**
- C. Resolution No. 12-R-0119 – Contract Award – Operations Management International, Inc., for Professional Services Related to the Management and Operation of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant.**
- D. Resolution No. 12-R-0120 – Contract Amendment No. 1 & Final – Professional Engineering Services associated with the Establishment of a Grand Trunk Corporation (CN) Quiet Zone – Patrick Engineering, Inc.**

**Voting Yea: Aldermen Nanette Connelly, James Smith, James Beifuss, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, Alan Murphy, and John Smith. Voting Nay: 0.**

**B. Resolution No. 12-R-0118 – Contract Amendment No. 2 & Final – Illinois Route 64 Utility Relocation Project.** Alderman Beifuss stated that the additional cost associated with this project was due to a plan change initiated by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) which cost the City money. Will the City seek reimbursement for this change from IDOT? Mr. Flatter stated that the City has an agreement with IDOT and will try to recover some of the money, but since the watermain was located in the State's right-of-way, and not installed within an easement, the City may not have the ability to seek reimbursement. He further stated that IDOT did not require this portion of the watermain

to be relocated and would have just buried it under the new pavement. When the watermain was originally installed, IDOT only issued permits, not easements, for this sole purpose. Mr. Flatter said that reimbursement is most likely not going to be approved by IDOT, but the change order did come in much less than what was expected and the watermain will no longer be buried under the new pavement.

**Alderman Alan Murphy made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nanette Connelly to approve Contract Amendment No. 2 & Final for the Illinois Route 38 Utility Relocation Project. Voting Yea: Aldermen Alan Murphy, Nanette Connelly, James Beifuss, Nicholas Dzierzanowski, James Smith and John Smith. Voting Nay: 0.**

**5. Items for Discussion.** None.

**6. Unfinished Business.** None.

**7. New Business.**

**A. Request to cancel January 4, 2013 Infrastructure Committee Meeting.** The Committee unanimously approved the cancellation of the January Infrastructure Committee meeting but corrected the date to January 3, 2013. Mr. Flatter explained that at this time, and with the upcoming holidays, there are currently no items for the agenda.

**B.** Chairman Dzierzanowski informed the Committee that there is a problem with beavers in the Cornerstone Lakes Subdivision that is now affecting the parkway trees in the area. According to the Park District, who has jurisdiction over the retention pond, they do not have the money to trap them. Mr. Flatter said that beavers need to be trapped by a licensed professional trapper. Chairman Dzierzanowski stated that the residents are angry that there is no response from the Park District.

**8. Reports from Staff.**

**A.** Municipal Aggregation for Supply of Electricity. Mr. Flatter handed out the attached (Attachment A) memo regarding the process that the City needs to undertake in order to seek bids for a lower cost power source for West Chicago residents. He brought up two issues for discussion with the Committee in order to draft a Plan of Operation. First is the ability to include an option for a Civic Contribution to be added to the electricity supply rate. During discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed that this will be seen as a "hidden tax" on the residents, and they do not want this option included, even though it does not have to be imposed.

The second question to Committee is: Should the Plan include a green or renewable energy option? During discussion on this item, the Committee unanimously agreed that this option should not be included in the Plan of Operation.

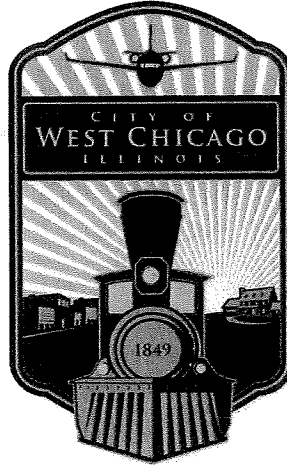
The Infrastructure Committee directed staff to prepare the Draft Plan of Operation, hold the necessary public hearings and finalize the Plan for approval at a City Council meeting. Chairman Dzierzanowski stated that he would also like to see notification to the residents regarding this process.

**9. Adjournment.** At 8:07 P.M., Alderman Alan Murphy made a motion to adjourn seconded by Alderman Nanette Connelly. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Baldino  
Administrative Secretary

## DEPARTMENT OF

**PUBLIC****WORKS**

ROBERT E. FLATTER, P.E.  
DIRECTOR  
(630) 293-2255  
FAX (630) 293-2971

UTILITY DIVISION	293-2255
STREET DIVISION	293-2250
WASTEWATER DIVISION	293-2261
ENGINEERING DIVISION	293-2255

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Infrastructure Committee Members

FROM: Robert E. Flatter, P.E., Director of Public Works *RF*

DATE: December 6, 2012

RE: Municipal Aggregation for Supply of Electricity

On Monday, May 7, 2012 City Council directed staff to investigate municipal aggregation of residential electrical power. Municipal aggregation allows local governments to bundle, or aggregate, residential and small commercial retail electric accounts and seek bids for a lower cost source of power, similar to how the City negotiates contracts for waste disposal or cable television. All eligible residents and small businesses are automatically enrolled, but anyone can "opt-out" of the program if they don't want to participate. Whether the City aggregates or not, residents would continue to call ComEd in the event of a service disruption, and ComEd would continue to send the monthly bills. The benefit of municipal aggregation is lower electric bills. The current average savings, on the electricity supply portion of the bill, when compared to the current ComEd rate for such is forty percent (40%).

At the November 6, 2012 General Election, the City was given the authority to pursue this Program. The next step in the process is for the City to draft a Plan of Operation and Governance (Plan), hold two Public Hearings, adopt the Plan, bid for the supply of electricity, and finally, execute a Power Supply Agreement with a specific vendor.

Working with NIMEC, and using a standardized Plan (i.e., similar to what has been used for the City of Wood Dale and other nearby Municipalities), staff drafted a Plan for West Chicago's consideration. The Plan is the City's "playbook", detailing how the Program will be administered by the City. The Plan will include provisions such as:

- The City will prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) and solicit rates for the supply of electricity from at least three vendors.



- The RFP, the Plan, and any Power Supply Agreement, will contain a lowest rate guarantee clause. This clause will stipulate that any vendor contracted with the City will guarantee that said vendors' rates will be equal to or lower than any rates available from ComEd at any point in time during the contract term. Also, language should be included to prevent the chosen vendor from imposing an early cancellation fee and will switch, if necessary, any and all City customers back to ComEd without charge.
- At a minimum, the City will seek fixed rates for the supply of electricity for a one-year, two-year, and three-year period. In turn, the City Council will have the opportunity to choose the rate and duration that would be most advantageous for its residents and small business owners.

To finalize the draft Plan, staff needs direction from the City Council on two issues:

1. Should the Plan to include an option for a Civic Contribution to be added to the electricity supply rate?

NIMEC reports that nearly all Plans include the civic contribution option and approximately one-third of all Municipal Aggregators actually add a Civic Contribution of 0.1 cent/kilowatt-hour. This could result in an estimated \$75,000 of new revenue that could be designated for new and currently unfunded programs (i.e., City-wide street light replacement and installation program, City-wide curb replacement program, overhead sewer installation program, etc.). If the option is included in the Plan, the City would not have to take action and impose said contribution. However, if not added, the City would need to amend the Plan at a later date should it be desired.

2. Should the Plan include a green or renewable energy option?

NIMEC reports that nearly all Plans include the renewable energy option and approximately one-third of all Municipal Aggregators actually ask for the supply of 100% green energy supply (which adds 0.1 cent/kilowatt-hour to the electric rate). If green energy is specified, the City will receive a certificate from the vendor showing that it is subsidizing the purchase of green power energy (i.e., solar, wind turbines, etc.). If the option is included in the Plan, the City would not have to take action and purchase green energy. However, if not added, the City would need to amend the Plan at a later date should it be desired.

After receiving direction on these two questions, NIMEC and staff will finalize the Plan and advertise for the two Public Hearings.

Finally, does the Infrastructure Committee want to review the draft Plan prior to the Public Hearings or would the members prefer that staff schedules the Public Hearings, and then incorporates any comments from the public and/or the elected officials prior to final Plan approval?

REF:ref  
Att-

Cc: Michael L. Guttman, City Administrator  
Tim Wilcox, Street Superintendent