

Approved with changes 09/07/2017

MINUTES

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

August 10, 2017 7:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum.** Chairman Beifuss called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll call found Aldermen James Beifuss, Heather Brown, Sandra Dimas, George Garcia, Alton Hallett, Noreen Ligino-Kubinski, and John Smith present.

Staff present included Director of Public Works Robert Flatter and Executive Secretary Ashley Cunningham. Also in attendance was Kevin VanDeWoestyne of Thomas Engineering Group, LLC.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. **Infrastructure Committee Minutes of July 13, 2017.** Alderman Beifuss requested that the word “unfortunately” be stricken from 6.B. of the Minutes. **Alderman Hallett made a motion, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2017.**

Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Brown, Dimas, Garcia, Hallett, Ligino-Kubinski, and Smith. Voting Nay: 0.

3. Public Participation / Presentations. None.

4. **Items for Consent.** Alderman Beifuss requested discussion on Consent Item D. **Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Brown to approve:**

- A. **Resolution No. 17-R-0045 – IDOT Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation for Construction Cost for the Powis Road Local Agency Functional Overlay Project**
- B. **Resolution No. 17-R-0046 – IDOT Construction Engineering Services Agreement for Federal Participation for the Powis Road Local Agency Functional Overlay Project – Thomas Engineering Group, LLC**
- C. **Resolution No. 17-R-0047 - CDBG Grant Agreement 2017 Roadway and Water Main Rehabilitation Project, Project Number CD17-04**

Roll call found the vote unanimous for approval. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Brown, Dimas, Garcia, Hallett, Ligino-Kubinski, and Smith. Voting Nay: 0.

5. Items for Discussion. Items for discussion include Consent Item 4.D.

4.D. Resolution No. 17-R-0048 – Contract Award – Thomas Engineering Group, LLC for Professional Engineering Services. Alderman Beifuss expressed that a ten year contract seems quite long to commit to. Mr. Flatter reviewed the agenda write up, pointing out that Thomas Engineering Group (TEG) has managed over 60 projects for the City; that TEG has assisted the City with 14 successful grant applications since 2008, acquired over \$3.5 million of federal-aid for use on capital improvements throughout the City; and that the cost savings offered by Thomas Engineering Group for a ten year contract, when compared to allowable direct labor profit dictated by IDOT, would save the City roughly \$800,000.00. Mr. Flatter explained that IDOT allows TEG to invoice direct labor at a 14.5% profit and for a project similar to the City's, invoice company vehicles at \$35,100 per year. For the City of West Chicago, under a five year contract, TEG is willing to reduce its profit to 9.83% and only charge \$15,000 per year for company vehicles. For a ten year contract, TEG is willing to further reduce its profit to 7.35% and only charge \$15,000 per year for company vehicles. Hourly rates for TEG's staff have been reviewed and are in line with other professional engineering consultants. Mr. Flatter explained that signing a ten year contract would lock in TEG's maximum hourly rates and the Contract is written such that either party could cancel the contract at any time, with 30 day written notice. Mr. Flatter elaborated that Thomas Engineering Group has also excelled in customer service, and their engineers are constantly out in the field speaking with residents to address questions and concerns. Alderman Smith expressed his support of the ten-year contract, especially considering the ability to cancel if the City is dissatisfied with Thomas Engineering Group's work. Alderman Dimas concurred and believes that all the grant money they have helped the City receive over the years is even more reason to sign the new contract. **Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve.**

Roll call found the vote unanimous for approval. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Brown, Dimas, Garcia, Hallett, Ligino-Kubinski, and Smith. Voting Nay: 0.

6. Unfinished Business.

A. Salt Dome Update. In May 2017 it was discussed that the salt storage *shed* at 119 W. Washington would be removed and alternative locations for a salt storage *facility* would be required. Committee agreed with staff that the best location would likely be near the Water Treatment Plant at 1400 W. Hawthorne Lane. However, estimates provided at that time did not include funding for necessary site improvements and other costs. It is staff's desire to construct a barn-style salt shed with concrete foundation and a large access garage door on two sides of the building. Enclosed storage bays are also desired on each side of the building. The estimated construction costs of the building, depending on options, range between \$668,000.00 and \$913,000.00. Christopher B. Burke Engineering estimates site improvements to accommodate the salt storage facility at over \$1,000,000.00, along with additional various costs, for a total cost of \$2,225,400.00 to construct the desired 6,000 ton facility. The City has \$500,000.00 in general fund reserves to put toward this project, and the remaining funding would come out of the Capital Projects Fund, resulting in a reduction of street improvements for FY 2018. Alderman Garcia inquired if there is a plan to prioritize the road projects that will be affected by this shift in funding. Mr. Flatter conceded that 2018 road projects would be affected, but there are plans to

move some funds set aside this year for Hillside Subdivision into 2018 in the hopes of receiving CDBG funding for that project in 2018. That could allow for \$800,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 to be used for street improvements next year. He also believes there are no streets in the City that are in such a poor condition that they could not wait an extra year to be addressed. While delaying street improvements is not an ideal situation, salt and winter are certainties that must be addressed. Alderman Beifuss asked if there are any kinds of grants available for a project of this nature. Mr. Flatter indicated there were none of which he was aware. Alderman Beifuss also asked for clarification on the size of the storage facility. Mr. Flatter explained that the intent was to build a salt storage facility large enough to store one year's supply of salt so staff can obtain the salt all at once and not worry about the supply and delivery throughout the season. When there is space available during the summer for example, it can also be used to store things like black dirt, cold patch material, etc., but the primary purpose would be one year's supply of salt. Alderman Dimas inquired of Mr. Flatter if in his professional opinion he thought it was possible that salt might be replaced as a treatment for snow and ice. He indicated he did not believe this would be the case. While staff pre-treats many streets which can help with snowfalls of less than an inch or so, salt is what everyone in this area uses and relies upon. Even if theoretically salt became obsolete, there will always be things that this storage facility could be used for. Alderman Beifuss expressed his disappointment with the cost of this new shed, though he admitted the salt storage facility is an immediate need. Mr. Flatter repeated that the City Administrator has indicated that there is \$500,000.00 in the general fund reserves to be applied toward this project. The Committee agreed that the remaining funding would come out of the Capital Projects Fund and street improvements would be reduced in FY 2018, and that this is a project that must be moved forward.

7. **New Business.** None.

8. **Reports from Staff.** None.

9. **Adjournment.** At 7:42 P.M., Alderman Dimas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Hallett. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Cunningham
Executive Secretary of Public Works