



MINUTES OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022, 5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting. Public may join via Zoom.

PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

I. This item contains Zoom information, instructions, and a link to the Virtual Comment Form.

B. ROLL CALL.

Present: Ald. Lynn Gerlach, Ald. Jesse Brunette, Ald. Randy Scannell

Excused: Ald. Chris Wery

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Ald. Lynn Gerlach, seconded by Ald. Jesse Brunette to approve the agenda of the Wednesday, February 9, 2022 Improvement and Services Committee meeting.

Motion Passed.

Vote: Yes- Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Lynn Gerlach to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, January 26, 2022 Improvement and Services Committee meeting.

Motion Passed.

Vote: Yes- Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None.

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

1. Consideration with possible action to implement a No Mow May policy to allow Green Bay residents to voluntarily participate in No Mow May (referred to staff at the Wednesday, May 26, 2021 Improvement and Services Committee meeting). (Ald. Scannell)

Moved by Ald. Lynn Gerlach, seconded by Ald. Jesse Brunette to instruct staff to develop No Mow May policy in conjunction with City of De Pere to allow Green Bay residents to voluntarily participate in No Mow May in 2022.

Motion Passed.

Vote: Yes- Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None.

2. Consideration with possible action on the review and award of the following contracts:

A. RAMPS I-22 PARKING RAMP REPAIRS

B. RFB #2021-42 CONTAMINATED SOIL HAULING, DISPOSAL & MOBILIZATION

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Lynn Gerlach to approve the award of the following contracts:

A. RAMPS I-22 PARKING RAMP REPAIRS to the low responsive bidder, RAM Construction Services of Minnesota, LLC, in the amount of \$543,980.

B. RFB #2021-42 CONTAMINATED SOIL HAULING, DISPOSAL & MOBILIZATION to the low responsive bidder, Veit & Company, Inc., in the amount of \$280,011.

Motion Passed.

Vote: Yes- Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None.

3. Report of actions taken by Department of Public Works

A. Granting of Licenses

1. Tree & Brush Trimmer

- a. A-I Tree Service Inc.
- b. Consciously Fresh Tree Service
- c. Economy Tree Service LLC
- d. Rain Forestry

Moved by Ald. Lynn Gerlach, seconded by Ald. Jesse Brunette to receive and place on file the report of actions taken by Department of Public Works

A. Granting of Licenses

I. Tree & Brush Trimmer

- a. A-I Tree Service Inc.
- b. Consciously Fresh Tree Service
- c. Economy Tree Service LLC
- d. Rain Forestry.

Motion Passed.

Vote: Yes- Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None.

F. INFORMATIONAL.

I. Director's Report on recent activities of the Public Works Department.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Lynn Gerlach to receive and place on file the Director's Report on recent activities of the Public Works Department.

Motion Passed.

Vote: Yes- Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None.

2. The next Improvement and Services Committee meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2022.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Lynn Gerlach to approve to adjourn the Improvement and Services Committee meeting.

Motion Passed.

Vote: Yes- Jesse Brunette, Lynn Gerlach, Randy Scannell, No- None, Abstain- None.

VERBATIM

- Okie-doh, let's get the ball rocking and a-rolling. Just let me get to the right agenda here. Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye, the Improvement and Service Committee for February 9th, 2022 is now in session. Let it be noted that Alder Brunette is here, Alder Gerlach is here, and Alder Scannell, myself, is here. Alder Wery, the Chair is excused, and as Vice-Chair I will be running the meeting. I'll take a motion to approve our agenda.

- So moved.

- Second.

- Gerlach, second by Alder Brunette. Any changes or anything? Everybody happy with this? Let's rock and roll. All in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? We're set with an agenda. I'll take a motion to approve our meetings from the last minute, from the last minute, from the last meeting.

- I'll make that motion. Motion to approve.

- Second

- Motion by Alder Brunette, seconded by Alder Gerlach. All in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? Our minutes are approved. And so are we ready to get onto Regular Business?

- Yes, sir.

- Good-oke. Regular Business. Item number one. Consideration with possible action to implement a No Mow May policy to allow Green Bay residents to voluntarily participate in a No Mow May. Referred to staff at the Wednesday, May 26th, 2021, Improvement and Service Committee Meeting by yours truly, Alder Scannell. Staff?

- Okay. I had a brief kind conversation with Alder Scannell about this last week. Subsequent to this referral back in May City staff has been working cooperatively with staff from the City of De Pere. De Pere did have a successful No Mow May project last year. They have a rather engaged, new, but rather engaged, Sustainability Commission there as well. So their Sustainability folks have been reaching out to ours here in Green Bay and we're trying to get our programs to work together. Number one, it helps for some commonality with people across the Metro area. Even though you're not, Green Bay residents and De Pere residents live in two separate cities, if we can have programs that are complementary and mirror each other, it provides a greater sense of familiarity. And then it also provides our staff the opportunity to work cooperatively with other governmental agencies on things of mutual interest. So we have been working with De Pere and De Pere has a program that we really like. If we're gonna do this No Mow May, we would like to mirror that program. For some of the educational materials that will go along with it, we can help share the cost if we partner up and buy things in bulk. So what we're looking for would be, the action we would be looking for would be to instruct staff to develop a No Mow May policy in conjunction with the City of De Pere for the purposes of having a No Mow May in 2022.

- That sounds excellent. I appreciate your work on this. Anyone have any questions or comments? Otherwise I'll take a motion? Alder Brunette?

- Thank you for that explanation, Director. Could you just kind of explain the last, repeat the last thing you said? 'Cause I wanna make sure I'm clear on what I'm voting for.

- Okay. It would be to instruct staff to develop a No Mow May policy in conjunction with the City of De Pere to have a No Mow May in 2022.

- Gotcha. All right, thank you.

- And the big thing that's gonna set the program apart, De Pere found, in order to get buy into the program, in order for folks to have a skin in the game, the biggest thing is they have to have a sign. So if you don't have a sign, you would be subject to getting your grass cut and the penalties associated with that. All you have to do, the sign is free. You come down either to city hall or one of the garages, pick up your No Mow May sign, you put it in your front yard, and everybody knows that you're participating in No Mow May and it takes all the headaches away from things

- Alder Gerlach?

- Of course, I have a few questions. I've read about this a long time ago, probably in May when it came up. And the main purpose of No Mow May is to protect pollinators?

- It's to provide habitat for early season pollinators before the majority of the flowering species come out. So things that occur naturally in your yard, especially dandelions, things of that nature, they want folks to let the grass grow because a lot of times, from what I understand, the bees especially nest in the wintertime in your yard, but very close to the surface. So don't rake, wait that. Let the grass grow a little higher. Let the dandelions come up, and it provides some early season habitat before the rest of the flowers come out for pollinators. And it's more than just bees, it's all pollinators.

- Okay. And then another question. Has anyone ever mentioned any downside to No Mow May?

- The biggest downside that we know of is if folks don't start mowing as of June 1st, then we will get a rash of complaints of long grass that we're gonna have to go out and address. And the grass is going to be very long. It could put us a little bit behind at the beginning of the mowing season, but that's the biggest downside to it.

- Okay, I don't know much about rodents and wild things like that, but I've had complaints from constituents about neighbors who don't mow their lawn and how it encourages mice and they get mice in their yard and in their garage. Would that happen in May and is this a concern?

- We're not overly concerned with it. There is enough of a body of evidence out there from communities that have done No Mow Mays that it hasn't caused a lot of vector problems like that. Pros and cons. We've also heard that, essentially, the food that is being provided to the early season pollinators is kind of analogous to junk food. If it's gonna do anything to help the pollinators and help provide sustainability, we're open to trying it. I was against No Mow May for the first couple of years that it was brought up. In speaking with De Pere and listening to their experiences and how things have gone for them, we're willing to give it a try here.

- Okay. My last question. Why were you against it at first?

- Because I hadn't seen enough evidence that it was really that beneficial to the pollinators. And I was worried about the enforcement on the tail end of it. With De Pere giving us some of their, the benefit of their insight of having run a program like this in the past and learning from their lessons, I no longer share those concerns.

- Okay. Thank you.

- And if I may piggyback a little bit on the mice situation, as someone who is a place where mice seem to congregate, it doesn't matter if you're mowing the lawn or not. We've got tons of mice. It's been, I don't know if it's COVID or what, it's been a bumper crop for mice in the Scannell residence.

- I think my little Yorkie would come over and take care of those for a fee.

- Oh, well, hey. That sounds great. I've been catching them and bringing them out to the Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Oh God.

- I don't know how well they fare in the winter now, but anyway. Any other questions, comments? Okay. I'll take a motion?

- Director Grenier, you kind of laid out the motion. Would it be appropriate, Chairperson, just for me to say, make a motion, what Director Grenier, I dunno, word for word, like you know I'll butcher it 'cause I'm not good at reciting something he said.

- I'll betcha I could do it.

- Oh, go for it

- I'll give it a try. So we move to begin a No Mow May program in 2022 in conjunction with De Pere.

- Refer to staff to do that, yep.

- Well, not a refer to staff, a refer to staff requires us to bring it back.

- Oh, okay.

- So what Alder Gerlach asked us to do was to instruct staff to develop a No Mow May policy in conjunction with the City of De Pere to conduct a No Mow May in 2022.

- That's what I meant to say.

- Hang on Alder Steuer, is there a second?

- I'll second that.

- Okay, motion by Alder Gerlach, second by Alder Brunette. Alder Steuer?

- Thank you, Chair. Director Grenier, with this, are you, how was I gonna say that? You're coming back with a plan, so is that something you'll share with the Council before it gets to the final? We're voting on this now, and then Council, chances are we'll vote for it as well. So we could do a hard launch to move ahead with it. I'm just wondering if, when it is finished, if that would be shared with Council before it is implemented?

- Would you like us to share it with you as an informational item or for an action item before implementation?
- I'd be happy with implementation, but some of the alders may want to be a little more specific with it. I think we're trusting staff to move ahead, along with De Pere, to come up with something that'll work.
- I would be happy to list it as an informational item with my Director's Report in April, what we ultimately came up with. Or if you wanted it rostered as an actual agenda item to vote on it, I'm okay with that as well.
- Well, informational is good for me, but I'll leave it to the committee to decide what they wanna do.
- Alder Gerlach?
- I think it would be nice if you'd come back with the details in April and let us know exactly, because then we can share it with citizens. And I also think, we don't have to put this into the motion, but I think it's gonna be really important to have a report on it, the pros and cons and the results and everything at some point.
- After the fact?
- Right.
- Yes. Happy to do that for you.
- Any further discussion? We have a motion to instruct staff to implement No Mow May with De Pere. All in favor?
- [Alders] Aye.
- Opposed? Okay. That passes unanimously. Let me know when we go on to--
- We're good.
- Go onto, okie-doke. Regular Business, item two. Consideration with possible action on the review and award of the following contracts. A, Ramps I-22 Parking Ramp Repairs, and B, RFB number 2021-42, Contaminated Soil Hauling, Disposal, and Mobilization. Staff?
- Okay. For Ramps, I-22. This is our annual parking ramp repair and maintenance contract. We have in the packet a summary of the bids received. It looks a little different than what you may be used to because we are now taking bids electronically. So this is the summary that comes from our plan distribution and electronic bidding contractor. But you can see, we received six bids. Low responsive bidder was RAM Construction Services of Minnesota, LLC, in the amount of \$543,980. High bid was Berglund Construction Company in the amount of \$1,324,280. So there was a big spread, based on how the contractors interpreted the needs out there. I have consulted with staff and they are comfortable with the award to the low responsive bidder who is RAM Construction Services of

Minnesota, LLC, in the amount of \$543,980. Do you want both of them at the same time or take them independently?

- I'll leave that to the committee. We could put these together or would you prefer to vote on them separately?

- I can just make a motion to approve this one. Simple enough.

- Motion to approve 2A.

- And I'll second it.

- Motion by Alder Brunette to approve it, seconded by Alder Gerlach. Any further discussion?

- I have a question.

- Yes?

- Alder Gerlach?

- When you say low responsive bidder, what do you mean by responsive?

- You could have a bidder who is not responsive, or responsible, meaning that any number of things could be wrong with the bidder. They could not have an approved drug and alcohol awareness policy. They could have judgements against for failure to pay appropriate wages. They could not have a bidder's proof of responsibility on file with the city. They could not have insurance. They could have conditions listed on their bid that we would not be comfortable with in order to award that bid. So we review the bid to make sure that bidder has submitted all the information necessary, they don't have qualifications on their bid, things of that nature. If everything is okay, then you have a responsible bidder and we are obligated to take the low responsive, or low responsible bidder.

- And so does the city have criteria that are written down that this is what a responsible bidder must-

- Actually Alder, I believe it was Alder Scannell introduced a communication a year or two ago that put together a Responsible Bidder Ordinance, yes.

- So we do have it, okay.

- Yes.

- That's all I need. Thank you.

- And it's a fine ordinance. So we have a law to follow.

- Okay.

- All in favor of the motion?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? That passes unanimously.

- Okay. Item B is a request for bids. What we do with this every year is go out with this RFB and it's a needs based contract. So whenever and wherever we run into petroleum contaminated soils on a public works contract, we have a contractor on retainer. We've got unit prices already pre-established for the year. So they simply come out and haul away any contaminated soils that we would encounter. We put out a basic set of criteria to bid on. There's no guarantee on the quantities. The quantities that are provided for bidding are simply so that we can compare bids from one contractor to another. Low responsive bidder is Veit and Company out of New Berlin, and we are recommending award to them with the contract unit prices established in the RFB.

- Move to approve.

- Second

- Motion by Alder Brunette to approve, second by Alder Gerlach. Any discussion, questions? All in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? Okay. That passes unanimously. Onto three?

- Yep.

- Onto three. Report of actions taken by Department of Public Works. A. Granting of Licenses. I. Tree and brush trimmer a. A-I Tree Service Inc. b. Consciously Fresh Tree Service. c. Economy Tree Service, LLC. d. Rain Forestry. This would just be receive and place on file.

- That is correct. We've already granted the licenses.

- Yep.

- Move to receive and place on file.

- Second

- Motion by Alder Gerlach to receive and place on file, seconded by Alder Brunette. Questions, concerns? All in favor?

- [Alders] Aye.

- Opposed? That is received and placed on file. Onto informational It's all you, Director.

- Two short items for you. Number one, we do have a clipper system that is anticipated to come through the area tomorrow night into Friday morning. Not a whole lot of precipitate out of it, but

we are gonna get a short dip into colder than normal temperatures, so there may be some slight icing, especially on elevated structures and shady spots. Staff has been out already this week trying to get ahead of that by brining. You may have noticed that the brining looks a little bit more pronounced. The last couple of times we've been out, if you remember a couple meetings ago, one of the items that we had brought through was the committee and council approved the purchase of the hopper replacement for our brining system. That hopper replacement also included a triple filtration system. So we're actually creating higher quality, better brine. We've reset the brine system to where it was when it was brand new. So that's what you're seeing is better brine being made due to that investment in technology. The only other thing I wanted to bring up very quickly was there was some very good discussion last night at Finance Committee relative to the CIP. So that will be coming up for a vote at Common Council next Tuesday. If anyone has any questions relative to the reductions that were made in the bonding request, especially those that impact Department of Public Works, I would encourage you to reach out and have that conversation with me before we go to Tuesday so that we can make sure you folks are voting on something that you got the information on.

- Thank you, Director. Any questions, comments?

- Okay.

- We don't have to place it on file. There's nothing written, right?

- Correct.

- Okay

- Then thank you much, Director. Great job. Thank you. And our next meeting, get this out of the way, February 23rd, 2022. With that, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

- So moved.

- Chair, did you want to talk about Council, that this goes to Council on Tuesday?

- Oh yes. Thank you. I should have done that at the beginning.

- Oh, that's fine.

- Any time is better than no time. Everything we do here is a recommendation. Council has final say, which will be next Tuesday, six o'clock

- That'll be Wednesday. My understanding is--

- It'll actually be the 16th.

- Wednesday.

- It's the election.

- Wednesday.
- Yep.
- 'Cause of the primary.
- Thank you very much, sir.
- It'll be the 16th.
- Yep.
- Yes.
- Okay.
- Be there or be a nose hair. So we had to, did we, we had an motion and a second.
- You do.
- All in favor?
- [Alders] Aye.
- Opposed? Okay, we are adjourned. And should we begin, did we wanna begin right away, or should we take a few minutes here?
- Director Ditscheit is telling me five minutes.
- You can't begin, Alders, you can't begin until 6:00.
- We can't begin until 6:00?
- Correct, because that's the time that's noticed on the public meeting notice. If you wanna be able to start the meetings back to back like Finance and Personnel do, I would recommend switching to starting them both at the same time and including on the agenda similar to what they do in Personnel and Finance, whichever committee is not going first that week, you would include on the agenda to begin immediately after Parks Committee or something, if I and S was going second.
- I thought we had some kind of language.
- It does state, please note time change, immediately following Improvement and Service Committee, which begins at 5:00.
- A list of agenda items, six o'clock, right?
- The actual published agenda has the disclaimer written on it, even if the meeting schedule doesn't.

- Okay. So going forward that first--
- Make them both five o'clock start times and just identify who goes first?
- Correct, yes.
- Okay. That's, we normally go second, so I can understand why Parks may not have done that.
- Sure.
- So we will make sure we share that with Parks.
- Is Director Ditscheit ready to start early?
- It takes about five minutes for us to do the changeover, get one meeting stopped and the other meeting started.
- But we do have the language we can go forward or do we need to wait till 6:00?
- I don't like it.
- You meanie.