

## **PUBLIC WORKS / FINANCE / SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, January 6, 2020

Present: Mayor Caron and Council Members Albertsen, Buhler, Heuer, Lalim, Mantey, Redemske, Roby, Vilhauer & Weyh

Also Present: Heath VonEye, Mike Boerger, Colin Paulsen, Kristen Bobzien, Matt Roby & others

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sarah Caron.

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Josh Weyh and seconded by Bruce Buhler to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: minutes from the December 16, 2019 Public Works/Finance/Safety Committee meeting. All voted in favor and motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion was made by Glen Vilhauer and seconded by Adam Lalim to approve the agenda; all voted in favor and motion carried.

### **Request authorization to sign an agreement with Veolia L.L.C. for the 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Event.**

Wastewater and Solid Waste Superintendent Mike Boerger requests authorization for the Mayor to sign an agreement with Veolia for the 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Event. Mike explained that the City has contracted with Veolia for the past 17 years to hold this event each spring. Veolia will mobilize a field crew and equipment to Watertown, then classify, segregate and package any Household Hazardous Waste materials that are dropped off by residents. Veolia will process any associated paperwork according to the hazard class, then transport the waste to be recycled or disposed of. This year's event is scheduled on April 25 from 8:00 to noon, at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The estimated cost to hold this event is \$13183.92, and it is budgeted at \$16,000.00 in the solid waste disposal budget. The actual cost may fluctuate depending on the quantity of waste received. Maximum participation was 161 vehicles in 2017, and the average is 103 vehicles per year. Motion was made by Adam Lalim and seconded by Michael Heuer to recommend authorization for the Mayor to sign the agreement; all voted in favor and motion carried.

### **Council Consideration of the negotiated fuel pricing from Sioux Valley Co-op, for the 2020 Petroleum Products and Street Maintenance Materials, Project 1913.**

Public Works Director / City Engineer Heath VonEye explained that after the City advertised for bids for the 2020 Petroleum Products and Street Maintenance Materials last month, no bids were received for fuel. State Statute allows us to negotiate for pricing on items for which we receive no bids. Staff contacted local firms who had expressed interest in bidding fuel in the past. Sioux Valley Co-op and Cowboy General Stores submitted quotes. Sioux Valley Co-op offered a reduction of six cents off all the requested fuel prices, which was the higher reduction received; therefore, staff recommends going with Sioux Valley Co-op for the 2020 fuel contract. Mayor Caron added this is the first year we have bid out E30 fuel. The ethanol that is blended with the gasoline is made right here in Watertown, and it is the local farmers that supply the corn. When we buy ethanol blended fuel, we are supporting our local economy, we save money and it is better for the environment. Motion was made by Josh Weyh and seconded by Adam Lalim to recommend approval of the negotiated fuel pricing with Sioux Valley Co-op for 2020; all voted in favor and motion carried.

**Old Business**

Glen Vilhauer asked if anyone had received public feedback after the last couple of snow events. Heath had responded to a concern about whether or not the City had adequate salt/sand mixture, and it was verified with the Street Division that we do have enough on hand, and more is being delivered. Some concern was voiced about snow piles on the corners, but the Street Division crews are already removing them. Some positive comments were heard about the snow removal efforts in the downtown area. The Mayor had received comments from someone asking why the snow routes had not been plowed until the snow stopped. She wanted people to know that was not the case at all. During the 17.5" snow event, the crews had plowed the emergency routes 4 times and the highways 5 times. People might not realize that the plowing started at 4:00 am with only 12 staff members plus contractors, and over the course of two days the wind kept blowing so drifting continued. It may have looked like they hadn't plowed, but they had. The crews will plow emergency routes over and over during an event, but usually wait until after the snow event to plow the neighborhood streets, or the cost adds up very fast. She commended the Street Division for doing an excellent job. Michael Heuer had received questions about the policy for ticketing and towing. Mayor Caron stated that the police go out ahead of plows, looking at license numbers and trying to contact the owner to get them to move the car before plowing, but this is not always successful. If a vehicle hasn't been moved, the plow will go around it, and then it is another 24 hours before it is towed. City Attorney Matt Roby added that last winter the Police Department issued over 1000 snow-related parking tickets, which answered another concern that the City may not be enforcing the parking ordinance.

**New Business**

None

**Executive Session**

None held.

Motion was made by Adam Lalim and seconded by Bruce Buhler to adjourn meeting at approximately 4:35 p.m. to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel on contractual, pending litigation and personnel matters; all voted in favor and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Marscheider