

MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE
Monday, February 14, 2022
City of West Des Moines Training Room

In Attendance:

Council Member – Matthew McKinney	City Engineer – Brian Hemesath
Council Member – Kevin Trevillyan	Deputy Public Services Director – Joe Cory
City Manager – Tom Hadden	Principal Engineer – Ben McAlister
Deputy City Manager – Jamie Letzring	Traffic Engineer – Jim Dickinson
Assistant City Attorney – Greta Truman	Traffic Engineer – Eric Petersen
Finance Director – Tim Stiles	Superintendent of Parks & Recreation –
Community & Economic Development Director – Clyde	David Sadler
Evans	

Guests in Attendance:

Item # 1 – Paul Nesbit, 1328 S Cape Pt., West Des Moines, IA 50265

Meeting was called to order at 11:32 AM by City Engineer, Brian Hemesath.

1. Iowa Interstate Railroad – Quiet Zone Request (ERP)

Issue Summary:

The City has received complaints from some residents living near Grand Avenue & Raccoon River Park about trains blowing their horns at the railroad crossing of the park entrance. They have asked if a railroad “quiet zone” could be established for this portion of the railroad tracks. For the safety of drivers and pedestrians crossing the tracks, train horns are required by law to be sounded at all public grade crossings unless certain improvements are in place. City staff has had some preliminary discussions with Iowa Interstate Railroad to determine what improvements may be needed, and how much these improvements would cost. Additional discussions would need to be held with the Union Pacific Railroad, Iowa DOT, and Federal Railroad Administration to further explore what would be needed to implement a quiet zone in this area.

Eric Petersen, Traffic Engineer discussed the potential required improvements and costs associated with implementing a quiet zone. The option of a partial quiet zone, where trains wouldn’t blow their horns at crossings during the hours of 10pm -6am was also explored but Staff determined the improvements required would be the same whether a partial or all-day quiet zone was desired.

Paul Nesbit, 1128 S Cape Pt, explained the reasoning for his request was to explore options of what could be done to reduce the horn sound overnight. He stated the trains blow their horns between 3am – 6:30am sometimes daily, every other day, or multiple times in the same day.

Councilmember Kevin Trevillyan stated he would not be supportive of implementing quiet zones. The City has been approached before on the matter and his concern is precedent and determining which areas the City does versus which areas they do not.

Councilmember McKinney, asked Staff to elaborate on what the required improvements would involve, costs, and any current limits to the hours of operations when a quiet zone is in place.

Mr. Petersen responded that the required improvements would depend on what exists at each crossing currently. Each intersection would have to have gates at a minimum. The main issue is keeping drivers from trying to drive around the gates. Some of the potential improvements could include putting in a raised median (preventing them from being able to go around the gates when red lights are flashing), or four quadrant gates (gate arms on all corners so when the gates lower they block the entire width of the roadway).

The quadrant gates also require expensive detectors to prevent any cars from being trapped in between and on the train tracks. Before being able to provide any specific costs, Staff would need to work with the railroad to determine what exactly they would require at each intersection, as costs will vary and may be significant depending on the equipment needed.

Mr. Petersen added that there are no limits to the hours of operation for a quiet zone.

Councilmember McKinney suggested Mr. Nesbit visit with neighbors to determine interest and identify cost-sharing options or alternate funding sources.

Mr. Petersen noted that the quiet zone improvements wouldn't likely be eligible for any grant funding. The grants for railroad intersection improvements are typically for safety improvements such as upgrades from flashing lights to gates.

Councilmember Trevillyan commented that if this were a safety issue as opposed to quality of life, he would be more inclined to consider the request.

Direction: Committee members were not supportive of Staff moving forward with quiet zone improvements and suggested Mr. Nesbit work with his neighbors to identify alternate funding sources.

2. Review of Items for Council Meeting (February 21, 2022)

ENGINEERING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS:

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution – Approving Professional Services Agreement

- **Ginger Fiber Optic Interconnect**
(0510-079-2021) Civil Design Advantage 523.000.000.5250.495 *General Obligation Bonds and ultimately reimbursed by Microsoft*

Resolution – Approving Professional Services Agreement

- **8th Street Joint Utility Trench, I-235 to Clegg Road**
(0510-015-2022) Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) 500.000.000.5250.495 *Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding provided through the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the 8th Street Reconstruction project from I-235 to Clegg Road. City Staff will seek reimbursement from the private utility companies for these professional services fees and construction costs associated with the joint utility trench*

Resolution – Approving Professional Services Agreement

- **76th Street, Ashworth Road to Aspen Drive**

(0510-017-2021) AECOM Technical Services, Inc. 500.000.000.5250.495 *Ashworth Road Urban Renewal Area TIF*

Resolution – Approving Professional Services Agreement

- **Grand Avenue West Segment 6DB Sewer Extension**
(0510-013-2022) Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. 640.000.000.5250.495 *Sewer Fee Revenue*

Resolution – Approving Professional Services Agreement

- **Supplemental Construction Observation Services**
(0030-036-2022) HR Green, Inc. 500.000.000.5250.495 *Grand Prairie Parkway Urban Renewal Area TIF*

Resolution – Approving Amendment No. 2 to Professional Services Agreement

- **Parks Maintenance Facility Demolition, Environmental Services**
(0510-004-2020) Terracon Consultants, Inc. 500.000.000.5250.495 *General Obligation Bonds*

Resolution – Approving Amendment No. 4 to Professional Services Agreement

- **Digital Enterprise Segment 2 Phase 1 Arterial**
(0510-058-2020) HDR, Inc. 670.000.000.5250.490 *General Obligation Bonds*

Resolution – Establishing Just Compensation and Approval of Acquisition of Property

- **76th Street, Ashworth Road to Aspen Drive**
(0510-017-2021)

Resolution – Establishing Public Hearing Regarding the Final Design, Site Selection and Consideration of Acquiring Agricultural Property

- **SE County Line Road, Veterans Parkway to SE Orilla Road**
(0510-077-2021)

Resolution – Approving Proposal from MidAmerican Energy Company for Overhead to Underground Electric Conversion

- **Raccoon River Pedestrian Bridge**
(0510-030-2018) 500.000.000.5250.490 *Local Option Sales Tax*

Resolution – Approving Railroad Bridge Construction Agreement

- **South Grand Prairie Parkway, Grand Avenue to South of Raccoon River Drive**
(0510-014-2021)

Resolution – Approving of Highway Bridge Construction & Maintenance Agreement and Permanent Easement for Overhead Highway Bridge

- **South Grand Prairie Parkway, Grand Avenue to South of Raccoon River Drive**
(0510-014-2021)

Resolution – Approving of Highway Bridge Construction & Maintenance Agreement

- **Raccoon River Drive Bridge over Realigned Johnson Creek**
(0510-051-2015) 660.000.000.5250.495

Resolution – Accepting Work

- **South 35th & Grand Valley Culverts**
(0510-033-2020) OnTrack Construction, LLC 660.000.000.5250.490 *Stormwater Fee*

Resolution – Accepting Work

- **Parks Shelter/Restroom Repairs, Phase 2**
(0510-026-2019) Hartland Bobcat Services, LLC 500.000.000.5250.490 *General Funds*

Resolution – Accepting Work

- **2020 Channel Repair Program**
(0510-024-2020) RW Excavating Solutions, LC 660.000.000.5250.490 *Stormwater Fee Revenue*

Resolution – Accepting Work

- **Holiday Park Access Road, 9th Street to 11th Street**
(0510-040-2020) Alliance Construction Group, LLC 500.000.000.5250.490 *General Obligation Bonds*

Resolution – Ordering Construction

- **South Service Area Segment 4 & 10 Sewers**
(0510-007-2020) Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. 640.000.000.5250.490 *Sewer Fee Revenues*

Resolution – Ordering Construction

- **2021 Parking Lot Repairs Program**
(0510-043-2021) I+S Group, Inc. 500.000.000.5250.490 *Road Use Tax*

Resolution – Ordering Construction

- **2022 HMA Resurfacing Program**
(0510-003-2022) I+S Group, Inc. 500.000.000.5250.490 *Road Use Tax*

Resolution – Ordering Construction

- **Digital Enterprise Conduit Deployment Segment 4 Phase 2**
(0510-022-2021) Olsson, Inc. 670.000.000.5250.490 *General Obligation Bonds*

Motion – Approving Change Order #2

- **Digital Enterprise Segment 4 Phase 1**
(0510-060-2020) Kramer Service Group 670.000.000.5250.490 *General Obligation Bonds. The costs associated with this change order were previously encumbered and funded when Digital Enterprise Conduit Deployment Segment 3-1 was approved by Council. They are being reallocated to this contract so no additional budgetary funds are needed.*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution – Awarding Contract

- **Stagecoach Drive, South Jordan Creek Parkway to South 78th Street**
(0510-016-2021) Vanderpool Construction 500.000.000.5250.490 *Mills Urban Renewal Area TIF*

Resolution – Awarding Contract – no bids received

- **2021 Stormwater Intake Repair Program**
(0510-039-2021) 660.000.000.5250.490 *Stormwater Revenue*

Resolution – Awarding Contract

- **2022 Street Reconstruction Program**

(0510-001-2022) Shekar Engineering 500.000.5250.490 *Road Use Tax*

Memo – Awarding Contract – bids 3/2/22

- **Digital Enterprise Interstate 35 Crossings**
(0510-076-2021) 670.000.000.5250.490 *American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funds or General Obligation Bonds*

Resolution – Awarding Contract

- **Digital Enterprise Segment 1 Phase 2 Conduit Deployment**
(0510-021-2021) Kramer Service Group 670.000.000.5250.490 *American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funds or General Obligation Bonds*

PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS:

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Renewal Contract Agreement

- **Swimming Pool Pump Maintenance & Repair Services**

Approval of Renewal Contract Agreement

- **City Parks System Custodial Services (Reliable Maintenance Company)**

PARKS & RECREATION COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS:

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution – Awarding Contract

- **2022 Playground Replacement Project**

3. Staff Updates:

None.

4. Other Matters:

- Councilmember Kevin Trevillyan received a request from a resident regarding a no parking zone on Meadow Lane east of Valley West Drive. Jim Dickinson, Traffic Engineer provided details of the area and history of the request. Staff investigated the request and identified the cars that are parking on Meadow Lane are east of the driveway and more than 100 feet way from the Valley West Drive intersection. While monitoring the area Staff did not see traffic backed onto Valley West Drive. The resident also complained about cars being parked on Meadow Lane over 48 hours and Staff referred her to the non-emergency police number for complaints regarding parking for an extended period of time. Mr. Dickinson will respond to the resident with pertinent information and continue to monitor the area.
- Councilmember Kevin Trevillyan inquired about the project status for restrooms at Railroad Park. Superintendent of Parks & Recreation David Sadler responded that the construction project is still on track to be completed by May.
- City Manager, Tom Hadden mentioned that a parking agreement between Valley High School and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would be ending within the next two years. The

loss of parking will have an impact on the City and recommended that the City reach out to Valley High School to discuss future parking solutions.

- Property owners on Ashworth Road from 19th– 23rd Street received a mailing from the City's consultant Shive-Hattery regarding surveying for the proposed reconstruction project. Those residents have been reaching out to the City with questions. City Manager Tom Hadden explained this is an important project for the City and would like to schedule a workshop with Council to discuss and a public meeting for residents to provide input. City Engineer, Brian Hemesath responded Staff will draft a letter to the property owners on Ashworth Road from 19th – 23rd Street clarifying the project status and schedule a workshop with City Council followed by a public meeting to give the public an opportunity to give input.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm. The next Public Services Council Committee meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2022.

A recording was made. Respectfully submitted by Juanita Greer, Secretary.