

Minutes
Capital Improvements Committee
November 9, 2009

Members present: Mayor Raeanne Presley, Alderwoman Cris Bohinc, Michael Pinkley, City Administrator, Dean Kruithof. Also present were Public Works Director, Larry VanGilder, Mike Ray, City Engineer, David Miller, Alderwoman Sandra Williams, Communications Director, Jerry Adams, and Finance Director, Lori Helle.

Meeting called to order at 10:40 a.m.

Mayor Presley asked David Miller to update committee on the Fall Creek Road project. David replied that the jury awarded \$1,014,010 additional monies in the condemnation trial. Alderwoman Bohinc inquired as to where the funds come from to pay this award. Lori Helle stated that the funds come out of tourism and the attorney fees come out of the general fund. David Miller explained court hearing.

Item No. 1. Discussion of Five Year Capital Improvement Plan. Lori Helle distributed 5 year summary handout to members. Alderwoman Williams asked if the condemnation is listed in budget as a Line item. Lori Helle replied that it was listed in the “A” priority items.

Alderwoman Bohinc inquired if the Administrative Services in the 5 year summary had already been approved. Dean Kruithof stated the only approved item is the phone upgrade. Alderwoman Bohinc then stated that it was her understanding that in the long run the phone system upgrade is going to save the city money.

Mayor Presley stated that if the city adopts this capital budget that in 2011 we will have \$1M remaining. She asked staff what projects the city can or cannot do. David Miller replied that the city can do the tourism and transportation projects. Mr. Kruithof also replied that the project to reduce pressure in police and courts by moving walls and extending space is in the budget.

Mayor Presley stated that the first 3 items on FY 2010 budget are contractual. David Miller explained that the TanStone project final invoices should be in the vicinity of approximately \$74,000 and that design changes on the Highway 248 and Highway 65 project may save the city money. Alderwoman Bohinc inquired if the project was a cost sharing project. David Miller replied that it was a cost sharing project, with MoDOT paying \$1.5M and the city paying approximately \$6M. Dean Kruithof inquired if the savings would be proportional and David Miller replied that the savings would be for the city.

Mayor Presley stated that if she remembered correctly the Stonebridge Trail is part of a matching grant and David Miller replied that it was.

David Miller inquired if the signage upgrade could come out of tourism dollars and Lori Helle replied that it could.

Mayor Presley stated that her concern is the \$3M out of general fund. Alderwoman Bohinc inquired if that meant employees. Mr. Kruithof stated that we have to look at all factors for cost saving. We have to look at operations and cuts with everyone's input. Mr. Pinkley inquired if the city is carrying any debt from the 2009 budget. Mr. Kruithof replied that replacing the police vehicles was pushed off the 2009 budget and number of other items that may need to be done and may include personnel. He stated that last tourism collection was up 1/2 %. Mayor Presley inquired if staff wants recommendations from this committee. Mr. Kruithof stated that the replacement of police vehicles and the police/courts modifications are items that need done.

Alderwoman Williams stated that there are some items of which she is hesitant about and they are the mower and the rescue vehicle replacement for first responders. David Miller explained that the mowers are in bad shape and are falling apart. Mr. Kruithof reminded the committee that removal of items from the budget is not what he is suggesting, but reevaluating after the revenues and expenditures come in after January.

Mayor Presley suggested that the committee and board of aldermen have knowledge of contractual items before bids or requests for proposals are sent out to bidders or consultants. Mr. Kruithof stated that is the goal. He also mentioned that there is potential for stimulus monies for the Compton WWTP improvements and the Lift Station #30 upgrade projects.

Item No. 4. Discussion of Upcoming Projects. Mr. Miller explained status of projects from report.

Mr. Kruithof stated that some of these other funds are not in jeopardy like the general fund. Alderwoman Bohinc commented that even when the Board had discussion, is there really anything we can make a decision on? She went on to say that up until today she didn't know that the trail project wasn't really an obligation. She further stated that if there is a choice between buying equipment or retaining personnel, then she would select personnel. Mr. Kruithof stated that the city would like to utilize dollars without layoffs. Alderwoman Bohinc inquired if cost of living is state mandated. Mr. Kruithof replied in the negative. Mr. Kruithof stated that he would like to see the projects move forward. Lori Helle reminded the committee that very little of this capital budget has to do with the general fund monies. Mr. Pinkley inquired as to if this committee can make the decision. Mr. Kruithof replied that the suggested projects are from a staff standpoint. He would like to see this committee recommend to move forward on issues such as office modifications in police and courts and the replacement of the police vehicles. As revenue and expenditures come in next year, projects may change through this committee and board. Alderwoman Williams inquired if monies can be transferred after they are put into internal service fund and, if so, staff should bring recommendations to the board in January.

Mayor Presley asked if Mike Ray could explain the recent sewage spill. Mike Ray stated the Fall Creek Resort lift station overflowed and was reported to DNR. He stated that it was a control power issue wherein the breaker tripped. Lift station personnel removed float and are monitoring control power. They are also installing a new SCADA system because the current system is on pager alarm. The idea is to keep both systems for notification purposes. There is also a possibility of adding an overflow line at lift station where it will contain the overflow. He stated that there has been a lot of private development since the 90's when lift station installed.

The project has experienced many design issues over the years. The department has installed different pressure relief valves, but there have been no control issues until recently. Alderwoman Williams asked if the city will be penalized. Mr. Ray replied that DNR informed the city of zero tolerance. He stated that there will be modifications to pager system at the Fall Creek Lift Station. Mayor Presley stated that as a matter of policy, contact should be made to Taney County and also let the chamber know so that they are prepared to answer questions.

Mayor Presley stated that the Board of Alderman would have to look at capital items remaining on the spreadsheets. Mr. Kruithof stated that there are discretionary items that the city needs to move ahead with. He would like a recommendation from this committee concerning items such as police vehicles. Mr. Pinkley stated that he understands the concerns about police vehicles but wants to make sure that monies are available. Alderwoman Bohinc stated that she feels that replacements are important, but concerned about the savings. Mr. Pinkley asked if the vehicles had depreciated. Mr. Kruithof replied that generally speaking, once the vehicles reach 170,000 miles or more, it is time to replace. Alderwoman Bohinc made a motion approving recommendations for Items A&B of the 2010 capital program and the police/courts modifications with monetary changes as the projects materialize. Seconded by Michael Pinkley. Vote taken – all yeas, no opposed.

Mr. Miller stated that energy performance proposals are due November 13th. Mr. Kruithof stated that he hoped to see a great deal of savings as a result of this project. He also stated that the city will be replacing old 2” water meters with new meters and this should generate some cost savings. Mayor Presley suggested that the water meter issue be presented to this committee at the December meeting. Mike Ray stated that his staff have stepped up and done much research on this issue.

Mr. Miller stated that there will be a presentation from MoDOT at the next council meeting regarding the impact of the Taneycomo Bridge project on the city street system. He stated that there are complex issues with the intersection of Long Street and Branson Landing Boulevard and MoDOT will be explaining what the city can expect.

With no other items, meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.