

Committee of the Whole
June 13, 2017

Present: Mayor Vulich, Council Members Gassman (by telephone), Seeley, McGraw, Allesee, Odor, Connell and O'Neill, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk, Press and interested citizens.

1. Downtown SSMID Master Plan – Dennis Lauver

Mr. Dennis Lauver provided the Council with a Power Point presentation of the Downtown SSMID Master Plan. He stated that streetscape is an important part of the Master Plan. We must identify what the people want and is realistic in its objectives in order to move the Downtown forward. He continued in stating that this must be a place where people want to live and shop and businesses want to locate. Research must be done regarding what the objectives are, how to get from A to B, and who will work on what.

Councilmember Connell inquired regarding the funding source. City Administrator Brooke stated that finding will come from the General Fund. Councilmember Allesee inquired regarding what year the SSMID is in. Mr. Tim Clark stated that the SSMID is in its 5th year. Councilmember O'Neill inquired regarding whether the cost to the City will be on a sliding scale. Mr. Lauver stated that \$25,000 will be the cost to the City and the SSMID will have adequate funding. Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding how they will make sure the plan is not left on a shelf and forgotten. What is the action plan? Mr. Lauver stated that of the six or seven groups that presented, one was excellent. He continued in stating that there was a strategy, a timeline, and a group to watch for accountability.

M/S, Seeley-Allesee moved to forward the Downtown Master Plan to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

In discussion before roll call, Councilmember O'Neill inquired regarding if the City chooses to build a spec building, how will it be incorporated in the plan. Mr. Lauver stated that there are a lot of grants and funding out there. It will depend on what the stakeholders want to do. We need the community to buy in. Councilmember McGraw stated that the perfect example is the bike path, people thought it was bad and now a lot of people use it.

2. Holiday Lighting – Dennis Lauver

Mr. Tim Clark advised the Council that the present holiday lighting is 25 years old. He stated that it cannot be repaired and only 1/3 of the lights work. He continued in stating that the Downtown SSMID is looking at new LED lighting. He further stated that they would like it to look like the old days when there were lights across 5th Avenue. He proceeded to state that they are looking into a 22' tree to place at the end of 5th Avenue and new lights to replace the existing pole lights.

Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding the cost of the lights. Mr. Clark stated that the cost would be \$65,000. SSMID is making a request for an initial down payment from the funds the City holds for the SSMID group. He continued in stating that the lights which go across 5th Avenue are light weight and supported by wires. Councilmember O'Neill inquired regarding whether semis could go under the lights. Mr. Clark stated that they could. Councilmember O'Neill inquired regarding whether the present lights are owned by the City or SSMID. Mayor Vulich stated that they are owned by the Downtown SSMID.

M/S, Allesee-Odor moved to forward the Holiday Lighting to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

3. Recycling Contract – Waste Commission of Scott County – Matt Brooke

City Administrator Brooke stated that the Recycling Contract has been vetted through Lynch Dallas. He continued in stating that the program would begin in October and he was requesting that it be moved forward for approval.

Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding what would happen if the City does not meet their tonnage. Administrator Brooke stated that they are flexible because there are a lot of unknowns. There will be no penalties. Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding the terms of termination. Administrator Brooke stated that it is a 30 to 90 day notice. Administrator Brooke stated that they are super flexible. The City will receive 50% of what they sell.

Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding whether trash will be a problem. Administrator Brooke stated that they have a system that will know at the curb whether the container is contaminated. Ours will be below 10%. The driver will look for trash in the container and if the container is contaminated twice the City will remove the container and the resident must pay \$25 to get it back.

Councilmember McGraw inquired regarding whether there will be education. Administrator Brooke stated that the City will roll out education to children and adults. Councilmember McGraw inquired regarding whether there will be a commercial. Administrator Brooke stated not at this time; however, we will look into it. Recycling will be picked up Monday through Friday every other week and solid waste every week. Davenport increased its recycling 61%. The more recycling, the more sales and a better price.

Councilmember Connell stated that the biggest part was the education. Administrator Brooke stated the containers will show everything which can be put in them and there will also be something which can be put on the refrigerator to inform homeowners about what they can recycle.

M/S, Odor-Allesee moved to forward the Recycling Contract to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

4. Laura Liegois Contract – Matt Brooke

City Administrator Brooke stated that a video has been started to educate everyone about recycling. Ms. Liegois stated that education is very important. Residents will appreciate the program and they will have a huge container to put their recyclables in. She continued in stating that she is looking at various avenues for education; the lighthouse, social media marketing, the website and public meetings. She further stated that there will be a public forums at the Ericksen Center and Eagle Point Park Lodge. She stated that they will showcase the video as we lead into the September cart delivery. We will also go to the School District to speak with the children and show them the recycling truck. She continued in stating that they would be in the schools in September to talk safety and the importance of recycling and begin the program October 2nd. She further stated that she would be at Felix Adler Days with educational materials.

City Administrator Brooke stated that the truck is on order and the cart order will be finalized. He continued in stating that the City must look at this holistically, look at a transfer point at the

old Water Pollution Control Plant. He further stated that the funding would come from the Solid Waste Fund and would be able to pay off the debt in 12 months. He proceeded to state that we must look at the way we address solid waste and yard waste. We must decide if we want to change the way we do things and use Ms. Liegois to look into this. We could take care of the yard waste ourselves and take solid waste elsewhere. He advised the Council that the City will be able to lower the solid waste bill for all citizens.

M/S, Odor-O'Neill moved to forward the Laura Liegois Contract to the next City Council meeting.

In discussion before roll call, Councilmember Connell stated that we are moving forward too quickly. He stated that the Council was told that the trucks we have are the same as the new one that will be used, why spend the money. Administrator Brooke stated that we need other parts such as cameras and the software to convey the information to Public Works. Councilmember Connell inquired regarding whether local vendors were used to produce the video. Ms. Liegois stated that she used the people she always goes through. She continued in stating that she would use local vendors for printing the educational materials. Councilmember Connell stated that it started at \$9,000 and is now at \$14,000. Ms. Liegois stated that it was in the best interest of the City to look at other options for carts. City Administrator Brooke stated that GPS locates all totes and generates optimal routes to drive for recyclables. It will also know the address for solid waste containers.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that the City is looking at a positive solid waste fund as compared to a huge negative in the fund in the past. The recycling will also add cash to the fund.

Councilmember Connell inquired regarding whether businesses would pay recycling fees at a later date. City Administrator Brooke stated that the City will look into this once the routes are established to see if we can do business routes. We will pay as we go and not pay for additional studies until necessary. He continued in stating that we should address this at some time and must be able to meet the pickup needs of a business. Councilmember Connell suggested that the City look at options to open up the site for yard waste again. Ms. Liegois stated that it could be looked into if it can get re-permitted and it is decided who will handle it.

Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding the cost to take yard waste to the Landfill. City Administrator Brooke stated that there is no cost in exchange for free sewer. He continued in stating that if we look into handling our own yard waste we will also look into solid waste.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that he thought the City looked into the 2nd Avenue Landfill and it was determined that yard waste leaches into the soil. Councilmember Seeley stated that he needed clarification from the Council regarding a list of what is needed to be looked into. He continued in stating that he did not remember discussion regarding yard waste and solid waste. City Administrator Brooke stated that the City needs an analysis and needs to collect data. Councilmember Connell stated that analysis and implementation are two different things. We are not at the point to say we will pull out of the Landfill. City Administrator Brooke stated that the City will not do anything other than get the analysis and bring the findings back to the Council. It would be an injustice to the citizens if we do not look at the possibility of saving money.

Mayor Vulich stated that the verbiage of the contract says the Council will receive reports regarding whether it is economically feasible. Ms. Liegois stated that the verbiage in the contract is confusing; however, the Council is in the driver's seat regarding what the City wants to do.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that the head tax will be at \$8.00 for two years. It costs the City \$265,000 to bring solid waste to the landfill when we will take 60% of the refuse to Scott County. It is prudent to look at saving money. The head tax will not go away and the \$44 per ton will not go down. Councilmember Seeley stated that the City should get recycling in place first and then look at the other issues. Doing it all at once is not taking the proper steps. Ms. Liegois stated that the City will see a dramatic change in recycling. The other pieces of the contract can be discussed with the Council. The City will still have to pay \$44 per ton. Councilmember Seeley stated that the City is not sure of what is needed for a transfer station. Ms. Liegois stated that there are a lot of options to look at. Mayor Vulich stated that this study has recommendations and implementations we could do. We owe it to the citizens to find out the real cost. Councilmember O'Neill stated that there is nothing in the contract that says the City will pay for something it will not get. The Council should listen to someone with the expertise and then make decisions. We need to look at the whole program.

Councilmember Connell inquired regarding how long it would take to implement numbers two and three. He stated the Council will need to receive the analysis, consider it and implement it. Ms. Liegois stated that this is a three part contract put into one. City Administrator Brooke stated that we will give all of the analysis to the Council and make sure everything is right. Ms. Liegois stated that there is no end date, I will be here a long time. City Administrator Brooke stated that recycling must get going good and then Ms. Liegois will evaluate that and then move on to parts two and three. Councilmember Seeley suggested considering parts two and three separately. City Attorney Patrick O'Connell stated that there needs to be a clause in the contract which states "On consideration of the Council" in both parts two and three. It appears there is a good relationship between the City and Ms. Liegois' company; however, it refers to subcontractors. There needs to be language that states "with the agreement of the City" so you will know who the subcontractor would be.

Councilmember Seeley stated that the date of October 2, 2016 must be changed to October 2, 2017 on the last page. He continued in stating that he was proposing that parts two and three be brought back to the Council when they are ready to implement. Mayor Vulich stated that the Council must decide whether they are interested in saving the City money or not at all. Councilmember O'Neill suggest using the City Attorney's language in the contract and moving on. Councilmember Seeley stated that he would like the contract to return to the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor Vulich stated that the City Attorney has provided a legal opinion on what the City can do; however, we do not know what steps to take. City Attorney O'Connell stated that the Council could accept the whole contract with Ms. Liegois' firm to do all that is promised in the contract and will only do parts two and three upon approval of the Council. The City Administrator will have to bring back to the Council parts two and three when they are ready.

M/S, Connell-Seeley moved to amend the previous motion and accept part A of the Laura Liegois Contract – withdrawn.

M/S, Odor-O'Neill moved to amend the Laura Liegois Contract to allow trigger points of a resolution of the Council to implement sections B and C and to include language regarding subcontractors. On roll call, Seeley, McGraw, Allesee, Odor, Connell, O'Neill – Yes; Gassman – No. Motion carried.

M/S, Odor-O'Neill moved to forward the contract as amended to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

5. North River Drive – Mark Land

Mr. Dave Rose stated that this is the first time since 1995 that this group has come to the Council. He continued in stating that they are the driving force behind Highway 30 east and west, Camanche Avenue, Mill Creek Parkway and the 19th Avenue North Extension. He further stated that all projects have been completed. He proceeded to state that the group includes Representative Clyde Bradley, Edith Pfeffer, Barb Seuhl, Carolyn Tallett, Tom Determann, and Representative Jim Nussle. He stated that the success of this group has been outstanding. He continued in stating that their biggest accomplishment has been the gas tax. He further stated that they were bringing two projects forward, Mill Creek Parkway and North River Drive.

Mr. Mark Land, Vice President of Snyder and Associates, advised the Council that Snyder and Associates has been around since 1977. He stated that they are an engineering firm in the Midwest and have worked on Mill Creek Parkway, 19th Avenue North, the Downtown Streetscape and North River Drive.

Mr. Wade Greiman, Snyder and Associates, advised the Council that the vision in 1997 when the City receive the \$8.5 RISE Grant was to create jobs, provide access to new residents, promote walking and biking, reduce congestion and enhance safety. He stated that currently he is proposing a four lane on Mill Creek Parkway from Highway 30 to Main Avenue. He continued in stating that the vehicle count has outpaced the original estimate. This would provide an extension to the north and open up land for residential use. He further stated that he is proposing the update of traffic counts and how it feeds into the Lyons Business Park, the concept of four lanes with a paved shoulder, two lanes from Main Avenue to Eagle Point Park, a trail on the east Right-Of-Way, the update of costs and funding sources, and the development of an economic development brochure for use when traveling to Washington DC.

Mr. Greiman stated that he is proposing a 1 ½ mile corridor for North River Drive. It would be placed to the left of the bridge and extend south to Riverview Drive. The vision is to construct a collector street adjacent to the top of the levee and extend 19th Avenue North from Roosevelt east to North River Drive. He continued in stating that the area by Main Avenue is vastly underused. He further stated that the Sawmill Museum is expanding toward the levee. He proceeded to state that he looked at the 2011 Master Plan for the Lyons Business District and picked some goals such as the redevelopment of the Main Avenue Corridor to include a roundabout at Main Avenue and North River Drive, address parking in the area, maintain the Discovery Trail, identify funding sources, identify future land use, develop a cost and develop a brochure. He advised the Council that they were requesting \$22,500 to fund a study of the Mill Creek Parkway four lane project and North River Drive and to meet with the City Administrator and the City Engineer to determine what the City wants.

Councilmember Allesee stated that there is a Fund B Grant coming up for this. Councilmember O'Neill inquired regarding whether the Corps of Engineers is OK with the plan. Mr. Greiman stated that he has not spoken with the Corps of Engineers yet. Mr. Rose advised that the Corps of Engineers gave it the OK the first time. It firms up the levee we have now. Ms. Seuhl stated that this will enhance Main Avenue Traffic. She further stated that it would be great to get a study going to see what can be done. Councilmember O'Neill inquired regarding whether the proposal for Mill Creek Parkway would create a bypass around Lyons. Mr. Greiman stated that it would add areas for development to the north and west side of the elementary school. He continued in stating that the piece between Highway 30 and Main Avenue would be appeal to businesses. Mayor Vulich stated that there have been changes to the policy relating to what

can be on or near the levee since Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Land stated that projects must be crafted around requirements. Councilmember O'Neill stated that the integrity of the levee is monitored by the Corps of Engineers. They will let the City know what can and cannot be on or near the levee. He further stated that there is no information relating to Mill Creek Parkway on the agenda and he was not prepared to consider it at this time. Councilmember O'Neill stated that this could not be voted on tonight since we do not know what the Corps of Engineers will say and Mill Creek Parkway was not on the agenda.

Mr. Land stated that he would look into where the road would go as related to the levee. He continued in stating that he is asking for approval to move forward with staff to put the projects on the shelf. Councilmember Allesee stated that if the City receives information from the Corps there is only \$6,500 needed for a match for the grant. Councilmember Connell stated that he thought these were two great ideas. ECIA says the City should have shovel-ready projects in order to get grants. Mayor Vulich inquired regarding whether the City has the funds in place. City Administrator Brooke stated that the General Fund has money available for the study.

City Attorney O'Connell stated that he would be less concerned if this information was provided to the Council and Press. This can be brought back to the next Committee of the Whole and Dave Rose can obtain verification from the Corps of Engineers. To get this moving presentation materials relating to Mill Creek Parkway and North River Drive should be in the packet and it should say North River Drive and Mill Creek Parkway.

This will be brought back to the July 11, 2017 Committee of the Whole for discussion.

6. Cancellation of July 4, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting – Matt Brooke

City Administrator Brooke stated that he was looking for Council approval to move a resolution forward to the next City Council agenda canceling the July 4th Committee of the Whole meeting.

M/S, Seeley-Allesee moved to forward a resolution to the next City Council agenda canceling the July 4th Committee of the Whole meeting. On roll call, carried unanimously.

7. Mayor & Council Updates

Councilmember Connell suggested that the City put a poll on the website for feedback on fireworks.

M/S, Connell-Odor moved to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Van Loo
City Clerk