

## Committee of the Whole

May 5, 2015

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Determann, Council Members McGraw, Rowland, Gassman, Wilke, O'Neill, Allesee, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk, Press and interested citizens. Mayor Vulich – absent.

### 1. Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis: 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North/North 14<sup>th</sup> Street – Jason Craft

City Engineer Jason Craft advised the Council that with the number of children crossing 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North at the new Middle School a decision must be made regarding whether the intersection at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and North 14<sup>th</sup> Street should be fully signalized.

Councilmember Rowland stated that he has watched the children crossing 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and it does not look safe. He continued in stating that a driver can hardly see the crossing guard or the children when traffic is backed up. Engineer Craft stated that the traffic backup will still remain; however, the only safe way is to signalize all four intersections. Councilmember Gassman inquired regarding installation of turn lanes. Engineer Craft stated that they would be warranted if there are a certain number of turning vehicles.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that parents park their cars across the street and at 3:00 P.M. 70 to 80 children cross 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North because traffic was not routed through to 16<sup>th</sup> Street Northwest. He continued in stating that cost-sharing with the school should be looked into. He further stated that there is a 15 minute problem with traffic and now the school wants the City to pay for it.

Engineer Craft stated that it is his due diligence to bring this forward to the Council because of safety issues. Councilmember O'Neill stated that the problem could be resolved by having parents pass through to 16<sup>th</sup> Street Northwest.

Mayor Pro Tem Determann inquired regarding whether there were any state funds available. Engineer Craft stated that there is traffic safety funding available; however, it must be proven that accidents would decrease, which is not the case. There is only a small amount of funding available and we would be in competition with other cities. There is not a lot of options for outside funding. City Administrator Kinser stated that the City was going to schedule a meeting with the school to discuss cost-sharing. Councilmember McGraw inquired regarding whether the City has cost-shared in the past. Engineer Craft stated that there has been cost-sharing for some projects.

Councilmember Rowland stated that parents are picking up students in the middle of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North which is quite dangerous. Engineer Craft stated that the School Superintendent and the Principal are working on the traffic flow. Councilmember Determann suggested that this item be referred back to City staff for further study.

M/S, O'Neill-Allesee moved to table until a future Committee of the Whole. On roll call, carried unanimously.

## 2. Solid Waste Equipment Update – Dennis Hart

Transit and Fleet Superintendent Dennis Hart advised the Council that he had asked that the agenda be amended due to the seriousness of this matter. Many municipalities are replacing trucks which can take up to a year to build; however, there are two trucks available at the factory which have a verbal “hold” placed on them if this is approved by Council. These trucks would take 90 days to build and the City would receive them after the beginning of the new fiscal year. He stated that two trucks need repairs which prompted him to use a 1993 Parks truck and to rent another. He continued in stating that he was requesting approval from the Council to waive the formal bid process for the purchase of the two solid waste trucks for \$360,000.

Councilmember Rowland inquired regarding why the City is purchasing a 2006 truck for \$90,000. Superintendent Hart stated that the rent goes toward the purchase of the truck. City Administrator Kinser stated that approval for the purchase was in the budget; however, the Purchase Policy states that we must go out for bids, and if we do we will not have the trucks when needed. She continued in stating that this requires waiving the Purchase Policy. She further stated that used equipment does not need to go through the competitive bid process.

Councilmember O’Neill stated that the City must make a serious effort to establish an equipment replacement fund. He thanked Superintendent Hart for coming up with a solution.

M/S, Rowland-Gassman moved to waive the Purchase Policy and place a resolution on the next City Council agenda approving the purchase of the two solid waste trucks. On roll call, carried unanimously.

## 3. Calendar Parking Review – Jessica Kinser

City Administrator Kinser advised the Council that there were issues with the Calendar Parking changes made in 2014. She stated that no decision needed to be made tonight. She offered four options for Council consideration: 1) fix the current ordinance to eliminate the wording “after midnight” and add that this ordinance shall not apply to commercial districts where parking is designated on both sides of the street. 2) Eliminate calendar parking. 3) Reinstate the previous rules. 4) weather-triggered parking requirements.

Councilmember Wilke stated that removing the wording “after midnight” makes the ordinance clearer. Administrator Kinser stated calendar parking is designed to help remove the snow from streets and she was unsure if #2 would work. Councilmember McGraw inquired regarding whether calendar parking would extend for a 24 hour period. Administrator Kinser stated that it would and between the hours of 6:00 AM and 9:00 AM there would be no tickets given. Councilmember McGraw stated that there are some streets, specifically around the High School, where all of the cars will not fit on one side of the street. She inquired regarding whether the Police Department tickets cars parked illegally. Interim Police Chief Tom Bohle stated that calendar parking has been in effect for many years and the Police Department does ticket illegally parked vehicles around the High School. He continued in stating that when it is a school day they see an influx of cars. Councilmember McGraw inquired regarding what happens if tickets are not paid. Administrator Kinser stated that their vehicle registration is held up until they pay the fines.

Councilmember Wilke stated that he would like to keep calendar parking as it is with the proposed changes in #1. Councilmember Determann stated that he is always hearing people ask why they have to follow calendar parking when there is no snow. City Administrator Kinser stated that she would formalize #4 and bring it back to the Council.

4. DNR Conservation Education Grant – Jessica Kinser

City Administrator Kinser advised the Council that the DNR is accepting applications for the REAP Conservation Education Program. There are two of the Augustana projects, which are both slated for the fall/winter terms, which deal with environmental education; the Storm Water Education Program and Urban Forest Management. She stated that there would be no matching funds required. She continued in stating that she was requesting Council approval to apply for the grant.

M/S, O'Neill-Allesee moved to place a resolution supporting application for the DNR Conservation Education Grant on the next Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

5. Mayor & Council Member Updates

Councilmember Gassman advised that May 16, 2015 is City Wide Clean up Day.

Councilmember Determann stated that it is Municipal Clerk's Week and thanked the City Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Van Loo  
City Clerk