Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

August 11, 2021, 11:25 am
ZOOM Webinar

Members present: **Mirtha Becerra (chair), John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West**

Members absent: **Stacie Anderson, Jesse Ramos, Sandra Vasecka**

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 PW Committee Minutes from 8/4/2021

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Referral – Professional Service Agreement with Woith Engineering, Inc for W. Beckwith water main replacement

Andy Schultz City Engineer for Utilities presenting,

This contract is for Woith Engineering to design a water main replacement in the West Beckwith area. This project will replace approximately 950' of six-inch water main in Beckwith from Woodford to Rollins Street. A small section of this water main is steel pipe from 1947, and the remaining is kalmein from 1914. Mr. Schultz explained that both of these segments of pipe are identified as priority replacement mains. This project will be a collaboration with the City Streets Department who has plans to mill and overlay the asphalt. This collaboration will allow this old water main and services to be replaced and save the cost of asphalt patch backs. The contract will be funded b the water enterprise fund.

Ms. Merritt wanted to know when the construction was scheduled to start. Mr. Schultz explained they would like to target an early summer date working around the St. Joesph School schedule.

Ms. Jones commented that the Rose Park Neighborhood council is very active, and it would be helpful if the City would reach out to them and give them a heads up. Mr. Schultz said he would add them to the notification list and appreciated the feedback.

Mr. Contos asked why the City was not looking at in-house engineering on projects like this. Mr. Schultz said it is in the works to do more in-house engineering but not an option at this time due to limited staff.

Moved by: Julie Merritt

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a construction agreement with Woith Engineering, Inc. for the design and construction of a water main replacement on W. Beckwith from Woodford to Rollins Street at a cost not to exceed $75,185.00

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Jesse Ramos, and Sandra Vasecka

Vote results:Approved (9 to 0)

3.2 Referral – Professional Services Agreement with Morrison-Maierle for E Central and E Sussex Water System Improvements

Andy Schultz City Engineer for Utilities presenting,

This project is with Morrison-Maierle to design a water main replacement in the East Central and East Sussex area. This project would replace almost 3,000 feet of six-inch invasion steel pipe. This is a priority as this pipe has reached the end of its useful life and is susceptible to leaking. This project does not have a streets project involved but was chosen because it is the last remaining pipe like this in this area of Missoula. The total cost for design and construction is $129,514 and will be paid for using the water enterprise fund.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with Morrison-Maierle for the East Central and East Sussex Water System Improvements project at a cost not to exceed $129,514.

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Jesse Ramos, and Sandra Vasecka

Vote results:Approved (9 to 0)

3.3 Referral – Professional Services Agreement with Morrison-Maierle for Mount Ave Water Improvements

Andy Schultz City Engineer for Utilities presenting,

This project is for a water main replacement on Mount Ave between Park and Thames. This project will replace 800 feet of six-inch steel pipe that was installed in 1941. This

project is in conjunction with the California, Ivy, Franklin, Park Greenway Surface Infrastructure project. The collaboration allows Missoula Water to replace the water main at the end of its life before replacing the asphalt. The total cost is $64,647 and will be paid for out of the Water Enterprise Fund.

Ms. Harp inquired why this project is more money per linear foot than the East Central and East Sussex project. Mr. Schultz replied that it comes to economy of scale. It costs about the same for them to survey this small project vs. the larger one. He said the City can often do a more significant project for less per linear foot for construction and design.

Ms. Jones commented that it is imperative to let the neighborhood councils know when projects are going on. She said several people look to them for information, and the neighborhood council can help the City relay information.

Ms. Merritt asked about how the City would do this work in front of the fire station. Mr. Schultz said the consultants would work with the Fire Department as a number one priority and make sure they have access.

Moved by: Heather Harp

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Service Agreement with Morrison-Maierle for Mount Ave Water System Improvements from Park Street to Thames Street at a cost not to exceed $64,647.

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Jesse Ramos, and Sandra Vasecka

Vote results:Approved (9 to 0)

3.4 Referral – Professional Services Agreement with HDR for Worden and Turner

Monte Sipe Project Manager for Surface and Mobility Transportation presenting,

This contract is for both Warden and Turner Streets sidewalk and reconstruction. Warden and Turner are both collector streets and are designated truck routes. This project ranks number seven out of ninety Capital Improvement Projects. This project includes installing sidewalks, reconstructing sidewalks, curb bulb-outs, and intersection enhancements. Warden and Turner street will also be repaved and restriped to add a bike lane. In order to add a bike lane parking will be removed on one side of the street. The funding for this $154,259.00 contract is the Transportation Impact Fees.

Ms. West expressed her excitement for this project and says that sidewalks are definitely needed on this street.

Mr. Contos asked why parking is going to be eliminated to add a bike lane. Mr. Sipe and Ms. Merritt explained that through the Complete Street Policy that bike lanes are required to be installed on all collector streets. The Complete Streets Policy says that the city

should build its infrastructure to accommodate all modes of transportation. The city is committed to investing in the lowest dominator which is pedestrians and bicyclists.

Mr. von Lossberg thanked Ms. West for advocating for this project. He also added that many people in this neighborhood ride bikes and will benefit from having bike lanes installed.

Moved by: Heidi West

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with HDR for engineering consulting services on Worden/Turner, N. 5th St. W. to Scott St., Infrastructure Project at the cost not to exceed $154,259.00.

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Jesse Ramos, and Sandra Vasecka

Vote results:Approved (9 to 0)

3.5 Referral – Professional Service Agreement with IMEG for Ivy/Franklin/Park S. 4th St. W to Pattee Cr. Infrastructure Project

Brandt Dahlen Construction Project Coordinator with Surface and Transportation Engineering presenting,

This contract is with IMEG for the Ivy, Frankin, and Park project, ranking eighth out of ninety Capital Improvement Projects. Ivy, Franklin, and Park are all Neighborhood Greenway routes, a network of low-traffic neighborhood streets that are good places to walk, bike, and run while complying with physical distancing requirements. This project will be split into two phases; the first will be on Franklin Street from Ivy Street to the intersection of Plymouth. The second phase is on Franklin from Park Street to Pattee Creek drive. This project consists of adding curb and sidewalk, repairing curb and sidewalk, adding bulb-outs, and traffic circles.

Mike Bader owns property that borders Franklin Street, and he feels the neighbors have not been appropriately notified of the work that is planned in this neighborhood. He explained that he did call Mr. Dahlen last week and was informed of the project plans. Mr. Bader felt the City is ahead of the public on this project. He would have liked the public to have been notified before the survey crews were sent out to work on the streets. Mr. Bador is also concerned about the City adding boulevards. He would like to see curbs and sidewalks but would like it to be uniform and not just applied to certain areas of this project. Monte Sipe replied that the City has to start somewhere, and the first step is to get an engineer on board and begin surveying the area. Mr. Sipe also spoke to the boulevard issue and explained that some areas have more right-of-way and can accommodate a boulavard and others are limited in space. The City does have regulations in place trying to install boulevards and sidewalks where the space allows. The boulevards enable the City to plant trees creating a better streetscape and also allow

snow storage. Mr. Sipe said once the designs are in place, they will schedule neighborhood meetings and send out mailings.

Robin Mochi echoed the concerns that Mr. Bader had. She lives at the Franklin and Cleveland intersection. A house across the street from her recently added curbing, and a boulevard was not required. She would also like the area to be uniform and fair to homeowners in that area.

Moved by: Heather Harp

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with IMEG for engineering consulting services on Ivy/Franklin/Park, S. 4th St. W. to Pattee Creek Dr., Infrastructure Project at the cost not to exceed $130,150.00.

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Jesse Ramos, and Sandra Vasecka

Vote results:Approved (9 to 0)

3.6 Beartracks Bridge Phase 2 Deck Pour Night Closures

Matt Straub from the Montana Department of Transportation presenting,

Mr. Straub is the Engineering Manager for the Beartracks Bridge Project. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) will do a full closure of the Beartracks Bridge at night to conduct deck pours for the spans over the river. The closures would be from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am. Big Sky Public Relations will help notify landowners and the public. This plan is tentative depending on if the load restrictions on the bridge are lifted. Traffic will not be restricted to water users. They currently have a mesh system protecting the water. Ms. Merritt asked if he knew when the weight restrictions would be lifted. Mr. Straub was not sure at this time.

No Recommended Motion – Informational Only

3.7 Informational Presentation on Higgins Corridor Plan

Aaron Wilson Infrastructure and Facility Planning Manager presenting,

This presentation is an update on the Higgins Corridor Plan. This project came out of the Downtown Master plan and the work that was done looking at the Higgins Corridor and some of the issues that were present. The study team is lead by Kittelson & Associates. The first step of this process is getting good public involvement and stakeholder engagement, then looking at the analysis and project foundation, development and evaluation, and lastly, presenting the final concept.

Some of the objectives of this project are to engage business owners and residents to understand current needs along the corridor and design a concept. The concept would consider the needs of all users and improve safety for those users. The outcomes envisioned would be a safer street for all modes of transportation, creating an inviting streetscape that showcases Higgins Ave as a destination, increasing economic activity, and creating a postcard street that the Downtown Master Plan envisions.

A website for the Higgins Corridor Plan and more information is available at www.engagemissoula.com.

Ms. Jones commented that she has been interested in this project for the entire six years she has been on council. She says this needs to be done for several reasons.

No Recommended Motion – Informational Only

4. ADJOURNMENT