

CITY OF ELKHORN
Municipal Services and Utilities Committee
First Floor Conference Room, 9 S. Broad Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

April 11, 2011

The Municipal Services and Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Alderman Dunwiddie, followed by roll call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Aldermen Dunwiddie, DeHaan and Norton

Also present: Aldermen Taylor, DeHaan, Norton, City Administrator Sam Tapson, DPW Director Terry Weter, City Engineer Gary Welsh, Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Simons, residents.

OAKWOOD LANE DRAINAGE DITCH

Alderman Norton offered a historic review of the annexation and public improvements that have affected the neighborhood.

City Administrator Tapson provided background about the immediate concern regarding stormwater drainage along Oakwood Lane, as well as commenting on the underlying annexation agreements that require 51% property owners to approve any infrastructure improvements.

Neighborhood resident Will Ruummele offered an opinion that the stormwater problem was not related to the Oakwood ditch but in fact was attributable to rear lot line sump pump discharge along Hickory Lane. Mr. Ruummele noted that the residents along Hickory Lane are in violation of the City "ordinances" that require sump pumps to be discharged into the ditch. City Administrator Tapson, DPW Director Weter and City Engineer Welsh informed Mr. Ruummele that there was no such requirement and that it was permissible to discharge sump pumps "at grade" in yards.

Mr. Ruummele suggested that the City consider installing a drain tile in the utility easement along the rear lot lines of Hickory Lane and require residents to connect.

Following additional discussion, residents stated that the Oakwood Lane drainage ditch is not a problem and no improvement is needed.

Alderman Dunwiddie asked staff to review the matter of sump pump discharge and to report back to Committee.

N. WASHINGTON RECONSTRUCTION: TREE EVALUATION

Parks & Recreation Director Simons provided committee with a review of the standards (criteria) that are used when evaluating whether or not terrace trees should be removed during street reconstruction activities.

Alderman Taylor expressed her opinion that the City should engage the services of an independent professional to assess the need for tree removals. City Administrator Tapson, while acknowledging that the evaluation would be outsourced, stated his opinion that the City's standards should still be applied. Alderman Taylor agreed that the standards were acceptable

but desired the opinion of a professional to confirm the City staff's evaluations. Furthermore, she offered a suggestion that the City outsource the tree management program in the future. Committee directed Parks and Recreation Director to solicit quotes from several firms and to proceed with the evaluation of trees within the construction area.

I & I: PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL INSPECTION/REHABILITATION

City Administrator Tapson reviewed a concept plan for the comprehensive inspection and rehabilitation of private sewer laterals.

Following limited discussion of financing options, the Committee endorsed a structure that would combine debt financing with an I & I Rehabilitation charge that would be assessed to each sewer customer. Although the concept plan suggested a rate of \$1.50 per month, the final determination of the rate would be considered as part of the 2012 Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (DeHaan/Norton) to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Sam Tapson
City Administrator