

UTILITY COMMITTEE
March 2, 2020

PRESENT: Chairperson Turchi, Members Kohler, Hegy, Carroll

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Utilities Rhodes, City Engineer Schall, Plant and Collections Systems Director Piquett

Call to Order – Chairperson Turchi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers of Hartford City Hall, 109 North Main Street.

Public Comment Period – None.

Electric Service Interruptions and Water Main Breaks – Director of Utilities Rhodes provided information on electric service interruptions and water main breaks.

Engineering for Wastewater Utility Interceptor Sewer – The City of Hartford’s main interceptor sanitary sewer line is scheduled to be lined in 2021 as part of the CIP. The interceptor sewer runs from near N Wacker Drive all the way to the treatment plant on Liberty Avenue. Most of the interceptor is located within easements on private property. There are several sections of the interceptor sewer that are of concern to staff. Before proceeding with the lining of the interceptor sewer, staff would like to evaluate these sections of concern to make sure there are no long term issues with the interceptor sewer. Request for Proposals were sent to two consultant engineering firms for engineering services for the evaluation of the interceptor sewer. The proposals were received and reviewed at the 2/3/2020 Utility Committee meeting. Staff had recommended the proposal from Short, Elliott, Hendrickson (SEH) in the amount of \$11,080 at that time. After discussion, the Utility Committee requested staff to contact Ruekert Mielke who submitted the lowest cost proposal at \$6,125 to clarify their proposal and verify their proposal included everything the City detailed in the RFP. After meeting with Ruekert Mielke, staff is comfortable with their proposal and that it will address all the requirements included in the RFP.

After meeting with Ruekert Mielke, staff contacted SEH to explain the situation and what happened at the Utility Committee meeting. SEH had some internal discussions and have now submitted a letter explaining their position and offering an amendment to their original proposal adjusting their scope and fee, matching that of Ruekert Mielke. Staff is comfortable with the amended scope and fee submitted by SEH and that it will address all the requirements included in the RFP. With the amendment submitted by SEH, both proposals are now basically identical in scope and fee. City Engineer Schall and Plant and Collections Systems Director Piquett provided information on SEH’s new proposal, and responded to questions. Alderperson Turchi noted that he would like to see a recommendation from staff rather than having the Committee make the decision. It was noted that both firms have completed previous projects for the City and have a good working relationship with the City of Hartford.

MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, and seconded by Alderperson Hegy recommend authorizing appropriate City Officials to accept the engineering proposal from Ruekert Mielke for the

Utility Committee (3/2/2020)

Evaluation of the Wastewater Utility Interceptor Sewer at a cost not to exceed \$6,125. MOTION CARRIED. (Aldersperson Turchi voted no)

Lateral Assistance for Hillcrest Sanitary Sewer Extension – The Common Council approved the sanitary sewer extensions into the Town of Hartford in January 2020. As part of the approval, the costs for the sewer extension will be special assessed to the property owners. After the public hearing for the special assessments and the discussion by the Common Council, the Council requested to discuss assisting property owners with the lateral installations. More specifically, this pertains to the portion of the laterals within road right-of-way. The Utility Committee began discussing the lateral assistance at its February 2020 meeting. The Committee requested additional information for two possible options to consider as part of this discussion. The first option is to provide assistance to those properties required to cross the roadway in order to install a new sanitary sewer lateral. The second option is to provide assistance to all properties for the portion of the lateral within the road right-of-way.

The first option will affect 19 properties with an estimated cost per property ranging from \$3,918 to \$14,600. The total cost of lateral installation and roadway repair is estimated at \$315,315. The second option will affect all 69 properties with an estimated cost per property ranging from \$660 to \$14,600. The total cost of lateral installation and roadway repair is estimated at \$355,645. The current sanitary lateral program for properties within the City has an allotted budget of \$35,000 per year. It is difficult to estimate how many connections to the new sewer would be made per year. If this program is approved, there is no money budgeted for these lateral connections in 2020. If the Utility Committee would like to proceed with this program, a policy and procedure should be established for these lateral connections for review by the Committee with a recommendation to the Common Council. City Engineer Schall and Plant and Collections Systems Director Piquett provided information on a lateral assistance program, and responded to questions. Aldersperson Turchi noted that he was only looking at possible costs and if it could be absorbed into the existing grant program. He does not want to add additional costs.

MOTION by Aldersperson Turchi, and seconded by Aldersperson Carroll directing staff to look at the existing program to see if the lateral assistance will fit into that program. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjournment – MOTION by Aldersperson Kohler, and seconded by Aldersperson Hegy for adjournment. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

LH:pb
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Compiled by Pat Borlen, Deputy Clerk