

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
July 20, 2020
MEETING HELD REMOTELY

Present: Councilmembers Rader, Shachner & Bullock

Also Present: Fire Chief Dunphy, Planning Director Leininger, Public Works Director Ducu, City Planners Michelle Nochta & David Baas, Clerk Bach taking minutes, members of the public

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of the June 8, 2020 Public Works & Sustainability Committee.

Motion by Chairman Rader, seconded by Councilmember Shachner to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2020 Public Works & Sustainability meeting. A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

Yea: Rader, Shachner

Nay: none

Absent: Bullock

Motion passed. Minutes approved.

RESOLUTION 2020-42 - A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect at the earliest period allowed by law, authorizing the City of Lakewood to enter into an agreement to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Energized Community Grant(s). (*Referred to PWS 07/6/20*)

Director Leininger explained that this is a request to receive grant funds from NOPEC which are periodically made available. This year's grant amount is \$197,322. Funds must be used for energy efficiency projects. In the past the City has used the funds to upgrade streetlights to LED. He remarked that the administration is currently deliberating on potential projects but hasn't decided yet. The resolution simply authorizes the City to accept the funds.

Councilmember Bullock expressed that he would like City Council to be directly involved in the decision around how the funds are spent. He asked for an explanation as to why there is separate legislation to accept NOPEC grants for charging stations. He expressed interest in verifying that the utility company is selling the City the most optimal lights.

City Planner Michelle Nochta explained that Phase I of LED streetlights included installing 350 lights on the entirety of Madison & Detroit and a portion of Warren. Phase 2 included 600 lights on Lake, Edgewater, Hilliard and other commercial corridors. First Energy is experiencing

delays installing the lights due to COVID. The City is experiencing savings as a result. Ms. Nochta addressed Councilmember Bullock's concern about the quality of the lights.

Chairman Rader relayed that there is some urgency to adopt the resolution to accept the funds in a timely manner.

Director Leininger expressed willingness to work with Council in regard to how the funds are spent.

Chairman Rader explained that in the past this was done on an ad-hoc basis but that he is happy to have these conversations in committee. He shared feedback from a citizen group that is very enthusiastic about EV chargers.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend Resolution 2020-42 for adoption. A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

Yea: Rader, Shachner, Bullock

Nay: none

Motion passed. Resolution 2020-42 recommended for adoption.

RESOLUTION 2020-44 – A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, dedicating six (6) parcels (Exhibit A) currently owned by the City of Lakewood, Bernice Pyke Park on August 18th 2020, the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. (*Referred to PWS 07/6/20*)

Councilmember Rader explained that Resolution 2020-44 would officially create a park from the parcels located north of the railroad tracks and south of Lakewood Center North. Both Planning Commission & Council will meet in August to consider the resolution and the park will be dedicated on August 18th. Building Department and Law are working to establish an address for the property, a legal description, and locate a survey. The land has been in possession by the City since 1991.

Councilmember Bullock expressed support for the new park and stated that he welcomed the proposal as an intentional use of space to which the City can thoughtfully dedicate its resources and maximize the use of the space above and beyond what is already in place. He suggested that wayfinding signs be installed to integrate the park with downtown. He expressed confidence that the investment in the park will pay off for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Councilmember Rader expressed appreciation to Public Works & Planning Departments for the recent improvements to the park including paths and benches. He has noticed the improvements have been well used.

The Committee discussed dog walking in the park. Councilmember Rader expressed that it is his intent to allow leashed dog walking in the new park. Councilmember Bullock provided some legislative history around leashed dog walking. He credited volunteer groups for promoting responsibly dog ownership and installing doggie bag holders.

Councilmember Rader mentioned that he discussed this matter with the Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board which had no objection.,

A motion was made and seconded to defer Resolution 2020-44. A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

Yea: Rader, Shachner, Bullock

Nay: none

Motion passed. Resolution 2020-44 deferred.

Without objection, Chairman Rader adjourned Public Works & Sustainability Committee at 6:29 p.m.