

Des Moines City Council PS&T Committee Minutes – 03/07/2013

Meeting called to order: 5:31 PM on March 7, 2013, in North Conference Room @ 21630 11th Avenue S, Des Moines WA 98198.

Council Members

Matt Pina—Chairman & Mayor Pro Tem
Jeanette Burrage—Vice Chair
Dave Kaplan—Mayor

Other City Staff

Tony Piasecki – City Manager
Dan Brewer – Acting Public Works Director
Brandon Carver – Acting Transportation Manager
Loren Reinhold – Asst. PW Director
Pat Bosmans – City Attorney
Peggy Volin – Admin Asst
Joe Dusenbury
Barry Sellers

Citizens Attending

Peggy Dusenburg
Angela Hopkins
Aaron McDonald
Donald Riecks
Emma & Leonard Rikansrude

AGENDA:

1. Approve 01-03-2013 Amended Minutes
2. North Hill Traffic Circles
3. LED Streetlight Conversion
4. Proposition 1: Utility Occupation Tax to Fund Street Pavement Overlays
Discussion of Informational Brochure
5. SWM Rate Structure Study – Private & Public Streets

MEETING:

1. Minutes of the February 7, 2013, were unanimously approved as submitted.
2. North Hill Traffic Circles: Brandon Carver led the discussion to update the Committee on the North Hill Traffic Circles. He explained that a petition was received last fall from the Watch Tower Block Watch that contained 16 signatures requesting removal, or modification of the three circles located on 208th Street. In addition to the petition, he had three contacts requesting that no changes be made to the circles.

Staff did an investigation/engineering analysis and concluded that while the circles may be slightly less than ideal in terms of design, they are providing a traffic calming effect on speeds and accidents with a small degree of inconvenience for larger vehicles such as garbage trucks and school buses.

Committee Chair Matt Pina, relaxed the meeting rules so community members in attendance had a chance to voice their concerns both for and against the circles.

Committee directed staff to research the original traffic study, report and recommendation that allowed the installation of the traffic circles back in 2001, along with the cost estimates to remove, or make modifications to the existing circles and bring the information back to the next Committee meeting in April.

3. LED Streetlight Conversion: Brandon explained the LED Streetlight Conversion Proposal that was included in the packets. The pie chart in the proposal detailed the 2012 Street Fund Expenditures and showed how much the City's yearly costs are for street lights. Mr. Carver then briefed the Committee on what staff is currently doing to control/reduce electricity costs associated with streetlights. One of the recommendations is to consider converting some of the existing PSE High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights to LED. PSE has announced conversion options for Cities. Price is based on the cost of the LED fixture minus the cost of traditional HPS lights. PSE is also currently offering a grant for energy efficient retrofits. The handout provided numbers for the current annual energy/maintenance costs on the HPS lights vs. the proposed savings after the initial cost of the retrofit. It also broke down numbers by parceling the retrofit out over a four-year time frame.

Committee directed staff to bring this issue forward to the Council. Staff informed the Committee it is on futures for the April 4th Council meeting.

4. Proposition 1: Utility Occupation Tax to Fund Street Pavement Overlays: Dan briefed the Committee on what staff is doing to prepare for the ballot measure which included articles in the Spring City Currents, advertising for volunteers to write Pro/Con statements for the ballot; and scheduling space at Des Moines Farmers Market on June 22 & July 27 to inform citizens of our story and how we work. There will be various pieces of equipment set up for demonstrations and staff will be on hand to answer questions.
5. SWM Rate Structure Study – Private & Public Streets: Loren referenced the memo received from the FCS Group, dated March 4, 2013 which addressed questions that arose from the Issue Papers and a concern from Council member Burrage on private streets. Of particular issue was whether private streets should receive a discounted rate which would need to be defined or be exempted fully from rates under the same basis as the City of Seattle. Loren stated that private streets currently receive a 70% discounted rate but the discount is not well defined. One of the tasks of the study will be to determine if the current discount is appropriate. He then turned the discussion over to the City Attorney, Pat Bosmans. Ms. Bosmans handed out the "History of SMW Rates" which indicated that the stormwater rates have not been the subject of a rate study for a number of years. She also passed out copies of RCW 35.67.020 which indicated that cities have discretion in determining stormwater rates. The statute also allows the City to establish rates based on the class of customers and facilities furnished. Since the current study is still in Phase I, she concluded that rates need to be considered after Phase II as Phase II is when the consultants will discuss and recommend rates.

Committee recommended giving Council several options to consider for addressing the private street utility charge.

Adjourned 6:52 PM

Minutes submitted by:

Peggy Volin

Administrative Assistant II