



**Energy and Sustainability Task Force Minutes
September 7, 2023, 5:00 pm
100 South Holden St – Jack Moore Room - Chamber of Commerce – Train Depot**

Attendees: Bruce Uhler, Barb Rhoades, Jeremiah Robison, Terry Vair, Jan Jones, Kathy Strickland, Aubrey Binder, Enrico Villegas, Phil Adlich, Kurt Davis, Chuck Conner

Call to Order by Bruce Uhler at 5:02 p.m.

Motion to approve minutes by Jeremiah Robison seconded by Phil Adlich.

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Enrico presented a draft ordinance to absorb the Warrensburg Tree Board into the Energy and Sustainability Task Force. Enrico mentioned that in future years we would like to maintain our Tree City USA status and this task force would then absorb additional responsibility related to the Tree Board. Chuck asked about removing the original ordinance and replacing it with the proposed ordinances. Enrico clarified that the tree board will be dissolved and absorbed within the Energy and Sustainability Task Force. Chuck mentioned that there are certain requirements from the Arbor Day Foundation that must be included in the new ordinance. The intent is to check with the Arbor Day Foundation to make sure that our new ordinance meets the requirements to maintain our Tree City USA status.

Bruce provided a brief history of the end of the Tree Board as it was and how we came to the point where we are considering absorbing the board into this task force. Once we have completed reviewing the draft, we would recommend to the city council to adopt the proposed ordinances. Chuck will look this over and determine if these proposed ordinances meet the requirements of the Arbor Day Foundation. Chuck Conner mentioned that there are programs to help the city pay to train an employee as a certified Arborist.

We will plan to vote on the proposed ordinances next month.

Kathy Strickland discussed UCM becoming a tree campus. The new president of the Student Government Association is very interested in pursuing becoming a tree campus. The service-learning project involves re-establishing the tree trail tags and establishing this on campus once again.

Enrico spoke on the Cooper Boulevard extension project and the trees that were to be removed as part of that project. During the project, the logger was unable to get ahead of the contractor and unfortunately, the trees were not able to be harvested and sold. Chuck mentioned that there was likely not much value in the timber in such a small project. Enrico had additional city properties

lined up to make the volume worth it to the logging contractor but unfortunately, they were unable to harvest the timber.

Enrico talked briefly about the sewer bond revenue plan. The sequencing batch reactors at each wastewater treatment plant are set to be replaced pending approval of the plan. The bond money would pay for additional treatment equipment that would allow the city to handle more water. We are very near capacity now. The city is currently interviewing engineering firms to discuss the project and select the correct partner for the project. The project will take about three years to complete. Many permits and other things must be reviewed and approved by the state. Additionally, the city is looking at adding solar to the wastewater treatment facilities to manage some of the energy use at those facilities.

Maguire Street Project. Today there was a meeting with the utility companies to discuss how utilities can be managed. The corridor would run from Young to Broad Streets. One challenge is the number of approaches along Maguire Street and the number of accidents that occur in this area every year. The city is currently looking at ways to manage the potential dangers in the area and seeing how they can mitigate some of these risks as part of the project.

The City of Warrensburg is currently working on a website that would provide updates on the project. The goal by the end of the year is to have a contractor for the project selected. A general timeline for the project is groundbreaking in Spring 2024. Burns and McDonnell have been selected as the consulting firm. Survey work has already begun. The objectives of the project are to enhance safety in the corridor and recognize that the bridges that cross over the railway are choke points. The city has been meeting with MODOT to discuss options with these bridges. Supplementary objectives are the aesthetics of the area and accessibility for folks who may not drive. There will be a shared-use path off the side of the road for walking and bicycling. From a stormwater perspective, the city is working with landowners to try and address those concerns. Adding rain gardens along the corridor is a proposed solution.

Solid Waste Plan. Burns and McDonnell was selected to help with this project as well. There was an analysis by the city of standing up a landfill and providing city workers to service the solid waste situation. One thing the city is considering now is a citizen convenience station where citizens can place recycling and bulk items. Ultimately the city will contract with one hauler and there will be penalties if they do not fulfill the contract. Kathy mentioned that the last time we met we were disappointed in Burns and McDonnell's initial overview of this situation. Bruce has asked Danielle Dulin to come to the next meeting and talk about what the long-term vision looks like for this project. She has agreed to provide us with information so that we can help advise the city as to what solutions they may provide for the recycling and sustainability situation.

Enrico mentioned the sidewalk improvement program and the work that is being done there.

Historically there was a cost-share program to repair or replace sidewalks. Unfortunately, many residents didn't participate in the program due to a lack of awareness or the inability to participate financially in the repairs. The city is now evaluating the city in segments and addressing the sidewalk problems. 2800 linear feet of sidewalk has been improved to ADA

standard. The sidewalk improvement program is working in conjunction with the street maintenance program to improve curbs and ADA ramps.

Steve Granger resigned a couple of months ago so we will need a Vice Chair to be elected next meeting. Terry has volunteered to be a voting member in place of Steve.

Meeting Adjourned 6:05 PM