

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
June 1, 2020

The Service Committee met on YouTube streaming via Zoom on Monday, June 1, 2020 with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath
Jeff Harris
Jeremy Blake
Ryan Bubb
Spencer Barker

We wish to report:

Consider **Resolution No. 20-40** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL AND OTHER UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

City Engineer Brian Morehead – We have been trying for over a year now to accomplish a project in cooperation with AEP. They desperately need to remove and repair or replace the overhead transformers in the alley next to Golden Wok and in the alley next to Moe's BBQ. They approached us with the idea of trying to get those put underground along with all the accompanying wires that go with those and we've been working through the past year to try to figure out the scope of the project and how to accomplish that. We would like to be able to hire a sole contractor to do that. We've been working with Claypool Electric on this project. They did the project behind Canal and Market privately funded a couple of years ago and they're very well versed in what needs to be done. They're actually putting pricing together at this moment. So I don't know what the actual cost is, but we will know that in the next couple of weeks. This would just be for the underground portion of the work, which is the conduit, the foundations for the underground transformers and that part of the infrastructure. AEP would do the actual relocation of the lines, pulling the new wire through the conduits, installing the new transformers and then completing the hookup. So, basically the part that would have to be funded by other than AEP would be installing the conduits and the foundation for all the underground portion of the work.

Mr. Rath – So, AEP's portion of the work is at no cost to the City? Or there is a cost to the City?

City Engineer Morehead – I believe at this point it is at no cost to the City. We have a short time window to take advantage of that. AEP is a willing participant at this time, however, if we choose not to do the underground portion of the project and AEP chooses to replace those transformers on poles and then if we come back in a year or two and say we would like to have that buried now, there would definitely be an additional charge. So, we're trying to take advantage of a project that EAP has planned. Several of the adjacent property owners are interested in participating. It would clean up those alleys and make them much more pedestrian and public friendly.

Mr. Rath – I know you said you didn't have a figure yet, but can you give us a ball park figure for the expense?

City Engineer Morehead – Just guessing, I would say it's going to be in the \$200,000 range.

Mr. Rath – Why would we not bid that out?

City Engineer Morehead – The reason we would like to waive the bidding is because if we're going to bid it out, it would require us to put together an entire detailed set of plans. Claypool Electric is very well versed on what needs to be done. We've been able to tell them the conduit sizes that we want. They know the specifications that we used on Canal and Market and those same specifications would work for us. So, we'd be able to put the funding towards the project instead of spending the funding on a detailed set of electrical plans that we would have to hire an outside designer to put together. Claypool Electric has familiarity with the downtown and their experience working with private entities and AEP. It would also save time on the whole project.

Mr. Barker – If I recall correctly, the lines that go past the Golden Wok power the County Courthouse. Has the County been involved in this project at all?

Engineer Morehead – Yes, we already have a conduit under North Park Place. Inside the sidewalk area of the Courthouse area there would be a transformer that sits there and they would have to remove their overhead and connect with an underground line to complete the installation on their end. I believe they have been contacted about this.

Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full council, second by Mr. Harris

Motion passed 5-0

A DISCUSSION OF FUTURE GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN AND OTHERS REGARDING THE PROPOSED USDOT INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (ITS4US) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

City Engineer Brian Morehead – Jim Lenner from the Village of Johnstown sent me a note and asked if we could have a discussion about this tonight. We're not asking for any action tonight, we're just having a discussion. There is a \$40 million grant opportunity available from the USDOT to develop innovative solutions for increasing complete trip mobility for targeted segments of our population like people with disabilities, low income, veterans, older adults etc. and the idea is that it's for complete trip deployment. Basically it's about that some of these individuals are not able to complete trips for things like the Doctor or the grocery store. So, there's grant funding available to study those things and study unique or current solutions that improve the mobility of these different parts of the population. There's a website available if you want to research more about it. I don't know 100 percent of the details on this, but Jim has contacted the Village of New Albany, COTA, Drive Ohio, ODOT, Mt. Vernon, Heath and Granville and LCATS here in Newark and basically the idea is that with a larger population we would be more competitive in the application. They would like us to consider being a part of that. The application period would be later on this summer. There may be some Legislation needed at that point. This is just for information at this point. There is a website available. I will send all the Council Members a link to it and you can have a look at it.

Mr. Rath – This is being spearheaded by Johnstown and what's our role?

City Engineer Morehead – Yes, it's being spearheaded by Johnstown.

Mr. Blake – I wondered how it relates to the County. There's currently a County transportation study going on, so I wondered how it relates to that effort.

Mr. Rath – That's a good question and the other question would be what does he need from us?

Mr. Barker – Earlier in the day when I was reviewing the packet I sent a message to Jim Lenner to try to get some additional information and he has offered to do a Zoom meeting sometime later this week to explain why he's doing this. I would be happy to forward that out to anyone else who may want to hear from Jim.

Mr. Rath – That's a great idea, if you could include everyone on Council in that.

Mr. Barker – I will do that.

Jeff Rath, Chair