

JUNE 24, 2020
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EDGERTON

Jim Burdick called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M. Committee members present were Casey Langan and Jim Burdick. Also present were Mayor Chris Lund, City Administrator Ramona Flanigan, Municipal Services Director Howard Moser and citizen.

ELECT CHAIR: A Langan/Burdick motion to nominate Jim Burdick as Chairperson passed, all voted in favor.

Flanigan confirmed the agendas were properly posted on Friday, June 19, 2020 at the Post Office, Edgerton Library, and City Hall.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Langan/Burdick motion to approve the February 24, 2020 Public Works Committee minutes passed, all voted in favor.

CONSIDER TALL GRASS AND SNOW NOTICE POLICY: The current policy requires the City notify a property owner of a tall grass or snow removal violation by letter, once per season. An alternative to this process is once a landowner is notified, another notice is never required again, no matter the length of time between violations. Flanigan stated the staff does not support this policy as it is hard to track. Burdick and Langan agreed that the current policy is acceptable with no changes needed.

CONSIDER PAYMENT FOR MAILBOX DAMAGED BY SNOW REMOVAL: The current policy regarding mailbox damage caused by the city during snow removal is if the City actually hits the mailbox with a plow, the city pays to replace the mailbox. The City does not pay for damage caused by snow being pushed into a mailbox, which is more common. Staff recommends a policy change that would provide a payment of \$25 or \$50 one time a year, no matter the cause if the city damaged the mailbox during snow removal. Burdick agrees that the policy change would eliminate additional time to investigate the fault and improve public relations with citizens.

A Burdick/Langan motion to change mailbox policy to replace mailboxes taken out or damaged by the snow plow with a \$50 payment per season passed on a 2-0 roll call vote.

CONSIDER BRUSH AND COMPOST SERVICES: Staff has researched options to control the amount of material brought to the brush/compost pile. Moser presented four options for the future of the brush/compost services:

1. Eliminate drop off site and continue with curbside brush and leaf collection program
2. Continue drop off site with set hours of operation staffing the site when open to ensure City residents only and installing barriers.
3. Eliminate brush/leaf drop off, continue compost drop off with limited hours
4. Leave the drop off site as is and budget an annual estimated \$27,850 to grind the brush and compost.

Moser indicated Tim Clark, tenant for the farm field next to the brush/compost pile, may be able to use the future material, depending on the material.

The committee discussed the service levels. Langan questioned why citizens would be opposed to a brush pick-up only. Staff explained some people do not like brush sitting on the terrace between collections. Burdick recommends limiting access to the site by opening it for three days a week. Mayor Lund recommended establishing an ordinance to allow for citations for illegal dumping if limited hours are set.

Burdick/Langan moved to amend the yard waste policy as follows:

- Install a six-foot fence and cameras.
- Open hours Saturday 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Monday 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM; Thursday 1:00-5:00 PM
- Establish an ordinance against illegal dumping.
- Provide adequate signage on-site.

The motion passed, all voted in favor.

A Burdick/Langan motion to amend the yard waste policy by installing a six-foot fence, set open hours staffed by a part-time employee, provide adequate signage, cameras, and establish an ordinance against illegal dumping. Hours to be Saturday 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Monday 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM and Thursday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM passed, all voted in favor.

CONSIDER POLLINATOR PLANTINGS ON CITY PROPERTY: Moser presented a list of city properties for discussion to convert to either once per year mowing or pollinator/native grass plantings. Moser stated this will reduce staff time. Flanigan stated there may be future opportunities for grants to obtain seeds such as from the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund. The Bee and Butterfly Fund grant program requires a minimum of 2 acres parcel of land. The grant would include preparing the location using round-up. Langan recommended researching options for round-up ready soybeans as part of the preparation. Langan was in favor of converting as many as possible to pollinator/grass areas.

The committee discussed the options. Committee recommended staff to research costs and grant opportunities for pollinator/native grass plantings for the following locations: cemetery; 2 acres on Lord Street across from South Ave; welcome sign on Highway 59; and business park around the pond.

STAFF REPORT: Moser provided an update on the grinding of the brush pile by Atlas Grinding. A total of \$10,000 has been spent. The contractor has decided not continue with the project as he feels his equipment is not adequate to grind the leaves and grass. If the Council chooses to complete additional grinding, the next lowest bidder will need to be awarded the project.

Being no other business before the Committee, a Burdick/Langan motion to adjourn passed, all voted in favor.

Howard Moser/jas
City Administrator

