

Public Works Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 4:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Kronenberger called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken: Cliff Adel – present; Laura Kronenberger, Council Member-present; Derek Lundell, Council Member-present

Also present: City Administrator Neil Jensen, Utility Clerk Ellen Hartman, Jason Mandelkow, Council Member Diane Johnson, Babe O’Gorman

3. PUBLIC INPUT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Hire Public Works Director

Jensen reported that the hiring committee has offered the position of Public Works Director (PWD) to Jason Mandelkow, who is currently the PWD in Goodhue. Jensen stated that they have come to terms, but Mandelkow has concerns. Mandelkow addressed the Public Works Commission (PWC), stating he has heard from many different people that certain members of the public always question the work of the Cannon Falls PWD, to the point of harassment. Mandelkow questioned how the City would protect him and his family from harassment if he accepted the PWD position. He has heard that current Cannon Falls PW staff are hardworking and dedicated, and he is eager to learn from Administrator Jensen and to work with WHKS; CF PWD position would be a career advancement for him. Mandelkow questioned how he would be helped through the initial transition stage. Adel commented that the PWD requires a thick skin and introspection, and nothing has gone beyond the “uncomfortable conversation” stage at PWC meetings. Mandelkow stated that most issues with the public can be worked through, but it comes back to certain people putting pressure on the PWD. Lundell stated that he has never heard of family members being harassed; he did state that the council cannot control verbal encounters, phone calls or letters submitted to the newspaper by the public. Kronenberger agreed with Adel and Lundell; she stated that issues should be reported to the PWC and City Council, and that the City supports the staff. Kronenberger questioned if the PWC should make a motion to recommend the City Council hire Jason Mandelkow as PWD; Jensen responded that the PWC can move to approve, even though Mandelkow has yet to accept the position.

Action – *Motion by Lundell, second by Adel, to recommend the City Council hire Jason Mandelkow as Public Works Director, passing unanimously.*

B. Swimming Pool Parking Lot Quote Request

Jensen reported that the swimming pool parking lot is the next project on the list. It needs more work that just milling; it will need to be reclaimed and 4 inches of bituminous laid for approximately \$170,000. The Council can approve getting quotes on May 2nd and approve the project on May 16th. The project will need to be completed after the pool season.

Action – *Motion by Adel, second by Lundell, to recommend the City Council get bids to reclaim and lay bituminous on the swimming pool parking lot, passing unanimously.*

5. NEXT MEETING

Action – *May 4, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers*

6. ADJOURNMENT

Action – *Motion to adjourn at 4:45 P.M. by Lundell, second by Adel, passing unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellen Hartman, Utility Clerk