

The Committee of the Whole met on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. President Sande called the meeting to order. Present at roll call were Osowski, Berg, Lunski, Fridolfs, Vein, Weigle, and Sande; absent – none.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Legislative Update

City staff presented committee members a brief update on the current legislative session.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Plans/Specs for Project #8703/04/05/06 (District #595/357/596/597) – Sanitary, Watermain, Storm Sewer, Storm Pond/Pump Station & Forcemain for Korynta-Lemm 6th Resubdivision

City staff presented to committee members the staff recommendation to approve plans and specifications and direct the Engineering Department to advertise for construction bids for City Project Nos. 8703 (District 595) – Sanitary Sewer, 8704 (District 357) – Watermain, 7805 (District 596) – Storm Sewer, and 8706 (District 597) – Stormwater Pond, Pump Station, and Forcemain for Korynta-Lem 6th Resubdivision. The primary benefitting area consists of approximately 386 acres of land north of U.S. Highway 2, bounded by Interstate 29 on the east and N. 55th Street on the west. These public improvements were initiated at the request of the property developer, Simonson Station Stores. The Developer is proposing this public infrastructure to be designed and constructed through special assessment through special assessment, to be accepted by the City for operation and maintenance.

Motion by Osowski, second by Fridolfs, to move item to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Bid Award for Project #8873-74-75 – 2025 Sanitary Sewer, Watermain & Storm Sewer Repairs

City staff presented to committee members the staff recommendation to award a contract to the low bidder, A&D Excavating LLC in the amount of \$258,885 for City Project No. 8873 – 2025 Sanitary Sewer Repairs, Project No. 8874 – 2025 Watermain Repairs, and Project No. 8875 – 2025 Storm Sewer Repairs. Bids for this project were received on March 20, 2025, with A&D Excavating being the low bidder. The low bid was approximately 24% below the Engineer's Estimate of \$340,410. The scope of these projects is annual maintenance and emergency repairs of sanitary sewer, watermain, and storm sewer pipe networks. These projects include typical repair work items and time and material work items. This is because the repairs needed are unknown when the budget is prepared, but need immediate attention once they are identified. These projects are intended to have a contractor to perform the repairs as problems arise.

Motion by Osowski, second by Berg, to move item to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineering Department Light Duty Truck Purchase

City staff presented to committee members the recommendation to approve the purchase of a light-duty pickup truck from Nelson Auto Center, Inc. for \$39,488 through the North Dakota State contract and to authorize staff to surplus unit #72. Engineering Department participates in the City vehicle capital

replacement program. IN 2025, Engineering is budgeted to replace one vehicle that is used city-wide for project inspections and stormwater compliance monitoring. The vehicle that will be surplused has been in use for 13 years and at the time of trade-in will have approximately 100K miles.

Motion by Weigel, second by Osowski to move item to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Operations Landfill Shredder Lease

City staff presented to committee members the staff recommendation to approve the purchase of a landfill shredder from ECOVERSE for \$641,450 via Sourcewell contract and authorize staff to secure 5-year capital lease financing and process budget amendments upon review and approval of the Finance Department. The City of Grand Forks (the City) owns and operates Inert Landfill Permit #202. The landfill serves as a disposal site for inert materials, including construction and demolition debris, wood, bricks, masonry, concrete, asphalt, metal, appliances, tires, mattresses/box springs, fiberglass materials, and tree branches. These materials are collected from northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

Motion by Osowski, second by Weigel to move item to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Enhancements to Flood Protection/Greenway System (47th & 62nd Ave S)

City staff presented to committee members the staff recommendation to approve bidding on this project to make enhancements in the Flood Protection/Greenway System to the trail and fishing spot between 47th Ave and 62nd Ave S for construction this year. The project area is part of the Flood Protection/Greenway System and is located between 47th and 62nd Avenues South. The city owns the property, but it wasn't initially developed as part of the Flood Protection/Greenway System. Over the years, there have been problems with vandalism and bullying of other users in the undeveloped area. This project aims to improve public access to public land, enhance a fishing area for all users, and provide easier access for law enforcement and emergency responders. A portion of the project area was originally outside of the city limits when the flood protection system was built after the 1997 flood. The neighborhood east of the project, commonly called the Shady Ridge area, was annexed in 2014.

The property in the project area has been largely undeveloped, and residents have discovered the benefits of this quiet, public space. A small clearing on the riverbank at the stormwater outfall has become a popular area for fishing and river viewing. This area has also attracted unwanted behaviors and vandalism. Staff has received reports of inappropriate, intimidating, and troubling behaviors coming from various ages of juveniles. Excessive trash, property damage and theft, and bullying of other users have been problems for many years. Trail cameras meant to deter vandalism were stolen, and many trees have been cut down. Residents have reported unattended fires and attempts by others to limit public access to the area. The seclusion of this area presents challenges for law enforcement and emergency responders because spring flooding and summer rains make driving vehicles in that area difficult. Staff worked with KLJ Engineering to develop plans and specs for improvements to this area. Those improvements included extending the paved trail south from 47th Avenue South, clearing the area around the fishing site, and adding benches and trash cans to the fishing area.

An online survey was made available to residents living adjacent to the proposed project area. A notification letter about the project and survey was sent to 179 residential homes in July 2023. That letter contained project information and a webpage for taking the feedback survey. A follow-up postcard with similar information was sent to the residents one week before the survey closed.

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Fifty-eight responses were collected. Of those collected, one survey was determined to be from someone outside the survey area. The survey allowed for multiple responses from an IP address and device. This allowed households to submit more than one survey.

Motion by Berg, second by Fridolfs, to move item to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried 6-1 with Osowski dissenting.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER DISCUSSION MATTERS

Council member Osowski reminded staff that she would like to see a presentation on the PILOTs, as well as information/presentation on rental fees. Staff stated they are hoping to get these items ready for the City Council meeting on April 7, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Osowski, seconded by Berg to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.