

**CITY OF SPARTA**  
**PUBLIC WORKS MINUTES**  
**November 7, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Kevin Brueggeman, Jim Church, John Gessner, Paul Geier, Bryan Jandt, David Kuderer

**ABSENT:** Troy Harris

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mark Van Wormer, Mark Sund, Todd Fahning, Kevin Riley, Dennis Johnson, Todd Hanson, Ed Hansen, Robert Arnold, Matthew Hoffland

Kevin Brueggeman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**A motion was made by Jim Church and seconded by Paul Geier to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting; Director of Public Works Report for November; Water Utility Operation and Maintenance Report for October; Waste Water Treatment Plant Report for October; and monthly bills for October. Motion carried 6-0.**

Mark Van Wormer stated that as a standard practice, the city does not install Children at Play signs unless there is a strong case presented to the board. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) reevaluated and updated its policies regarding roadside warning signs related to children. Their study showed there is no evidence that special warning signs reduce driver speeds or crash rates.

**A motion was made by Jim Church and seconded by Paul Geier to take no action on the children at play sign located on Julie Avenue. Motion carried 6-0.**

Due to the amendment to Tax Incremental District No. 9 that expanded to include the area off of Avon Road to include 8<sup>th</sup> Court, there is a high probability of a new housing development in that area. Currently, 8<sup>th</sup> Court consists of a gravel path and dirt trail and needs major improvements. Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) created an Agreement of Profession Services not to exceed \$164,500 to provide the engineering design, survey and project management services for the construction of approximately 2,200 linear feet of 8<sup>th</sup> Court. SEH would oversee the design, bidding, and construction process. The city would only enter into this agreement if the proposed housing development moves forward. Mark Sund stated that this would be a TID expense.

**A motion was made by Jim Church and seconded by Kevin Brueggeman to approve the Professional Services Agreement from Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. for the potential 8<sup>th</sup> Court development. Motion carried 6-0.**

Todd Hanson presented the 2024 Water Department budget. He stated the budget is less than normal due to rehab on the wells or towers is not needed. There are a few hydrants that need replacing. With the potential housing development in the Avon Road and 8<sup>th</sup> Court area, they will need numerous meters as the developer wants each apartment to be individually metered. Todd stated he has been adding into the budget annually in anticipation of the water filter plant needing a total rehab in either 2026 or 2027.

**A motion was made by Jim Church and seconded by Bryan Jandt to approve the Water Department Budget for 2024. Motion carried 6-0.**

Ed Hansen presented the 2024 Sanitary Department budget. He stated the budget is similar to last year's budget, except for a couple capital improvements. The blowers in #5 and #6 are currently operating at 75% and should be replaced now for optimal efficiency. They are part of the future replacement plan; however it would be more cost effective to replace them now. Ed stated the HVAC system in one of their buildings needs to be replaced to provide better air quality. He added the only other change is due to the increase in chemical pricing.

**A motion was made by Jim Church and seconded by Kevin Brueggeman to approve the Sanitary Department Budget for 2024. Motion carried 6-0.**

The semi-truck traffic for Century Foods on Industrial Drive and Hoeschler Drive has been an issue. Semi-trucks traveling down Industrial Drive are supposed to circle around the Century Foods building and then drive east on Hoeschler Drive in order to back into the loading docks. Many instead are traveling further down Industrial Drive to River Road. They are then circling back around using residential streets like Clearview Drive and Pfaff Parkway to get back to Hoeschler Drive. Many residents are concerned and complaining about the numerous trucks using this route.

Todd Fahning has been in contact with Bill Stewart of Century Foods regarding the issue. Bill stated they have tried to direct these drivers around their building. He believes they are just traveling further down Industrial Drive and rerouting themselves. Most are independent drivers and not regular drivers who would know the established route.

Mark Van Wormer stated they have a few options and was asking the board's opinion. They could install bollards on the residential streets to squeeze the intersections, which would deter semi-trucks from being able to navigate that route. They could install signage on River Road that would not allow that type of traffic. Either way, he believes we will need an ordinance to specify what types of vehicles or weight limit to travel on the residential streets.

No decision was made at this time.

Mark stated that the John Street project is nearing completion. Paving has been completed and they are working on finishing the landscaping now.

Kevin Brueggeman asked if TDS was coming back in the spring to fill the holes where the dirt has settled. Todd stated they are slated to return, as well as Bright Speed who performed work in the city as well.

**A motion was made by Jim Church and seconded by Kevin Brueggeman to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Lydon, City Clerk