

AGENDA FOR A PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MEETING FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015, 5:00 PM
SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

(Councilmen Lynch, Wilcox, Coram, and Brown)

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Councilman John Rockhold, Chairman
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. MINUTES – meeting held May 21, 2015
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Discussion concerning our swimming pools
 2. Discussion concerning the flower pots on Second Street
 3. Update on air packs in the Fire Department.
- V. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Works Committee of City Council met Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the small conference room on the second floor of the Municipal Building at One Government Square, Parkersburg, WV 26101.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Councilman John Rockhold, who presided over the meeting. Members attending included Sharon Lynch, Nancy Wilcox, Roger Brown, and John Rockhold. Councilwoman Kim Coram was absent.

Others attending included Mayor Robert Newell, Rickie Yeager, JR Carpenter, and guests Chip Pickering and Nick Arnold.

MINUTES – Ms. Lynch moved, seconded by Ms. Wilcox, to approve the minutes from the meeting held April 14, 2015, and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

RENEWAL POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT – Mayor Robert Newell told the committee that he and Mr. Pickering have talked about solar power for about a year. Mr. Pickering wants a government entity which would be cutting edge for WV and may be the first City in the state to do it.

See attachment for proposal.

Ms. Lynch asked what happened after 25 years, and Mr. Pickering said the panels would still produce power, but the technology will have moved on, and that is the end of the warranty time. Most of the industry says that anything at the end is a bonus. Maybe there will be a new technology. It is a frame of aluminum and glass and they may want to remove it, he said.

When Ms. Lynch asked if they could upgrade after five years if there was something better, Mr. Arnold said they would propose to let the panels do their work, and then we could take it to other buildings.

The panels are strong enough for 1" hail at 93 mph, Mr. Pickering stated when asked by Ms. Wilcox. The system is owned and insured by Pickering Energy Solutions LLC and they would replace damaged panels if necessary. The panels will also handle snow, and it is not necessary to have heaters to melt the snow. They will not produce until the snow melts, but that is all calculated in the returns.

Mr. Rockhold asked about wind lifting them, and Mr. Pickering said that a flat roof installation is very low impact. They would clip the panels to the roof, and have an engineer look at our roof prior to installation.

Mr. Carpenter asked if they would have access to the real numbers, and Mr. Pickering said they could just look at the bills and compare. You have to adjust for the weather patterns, and the City would have access to the amount of energy they are producing.

Ms. Lynch asked why he would want to do this installation and not charge the City for the panels or installation. Mr. Pickering said they would get a tax credit and they will bill us over time. The return on investment is five or six years, he said, and we could buy it from them after the first five years. Ms. Lynch asked who paid in ten years if the panels needed work, and Mr. Pickering said his company would pay for everything

and we pay for power at discounted price. The City could not use the tax credits or depreciation, he said. To get it introduced, they will buy the product and get the tax credits, and then the City could buy it later. They may want to put it on another roof, he said. There are 600 installed in WV, and this is a mature technology.

When Mr. Brown asked if batteries were involved, Mr. Pickering said there were no batteries, as there is no reason for the recycling center to have a back-up system. The grid is the battery and operates all the time – it becomes smarter and adapts to the system.

Mr. Pickering stated that it would cost around \$250,000.00 if the City were to purchase this system.

MOTION – Ms. Wilcox moved, seconded by Ms. Lynch, to refer the resolution and agreement on to City Council for approval on June 9, 2015, and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Conscious of the coal industry, Ms. Lynch asked how it would affect coal, and Mr. Arnold said solar is more efficient. Mr. Pickering said solar was a renewable source of energy, and we would be using less fossil fuel, and more technology. This is a great renewable energy, he said, and that is the way the earth should be going.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie Shaffer, City Clerk