

## COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

May 20, 2008

Upon Recess of Finance

Chairman Garrity called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Garrity, Shea, O'Neil, Gatsas, Smith

Messrs.: S. Maranto, P. Goucher, T. Clougherty, J. Burkush, T. Soucy

Chairman Garrity addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Discussion relating to the proposed FY2009 CIP budget.

**A. Items/recommendations relating to the Aldermen budget proposal:**

**Table 3, City Cash – change from \$1,368,900 to \$868,900**

(1) Delete Cash Project:

#710709 Annual ROW Maintenance Program - \$500,000

(program to be addressed through bonds)

Alderman O'Neil moved to accept this recommendation. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Garrity asked Alderman Gatsas, could you clarify number three, letter A. Does that just deals with the budget that went through last night?

Alderman Gatsas responded give me a reference of why we are looking at a cruiser of 2004 for \$26,500. Is that what the maintenance is?

Alderman O'Neil responded it's replacing.

Alderman Gatsas asked so are we replacing a 2004 cruiser for \$26,500? Is that what I understand?

Alderman O'Neil replied right.

Chairman Garrity stated that is just to go from cash to bonds. That was your recommendation, right Alderman?

Alderman Gatsas responded that is correct.

Chairman Garrity called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

**Table 4 – Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases**

(1) Increase Bond Project:

#711209 Street Reconstruction – add \$2.5 Million, for new total of \$3,211,500

(change description to include reconstruct and resurface city streets to enhance traffic flow)

(2) Add Bond Project:

#810309 Motorized & Electronic Equipment Replacement (MEER)  
\$800,000

(see attached for breakdown)

Alderman Shea moved to approve this item. Alderman O’Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

***B. Request of \$4,191,379 for Manchester Water Works Capital Improvements.***

Recommendation of staff to add project #713509 Water Works Capital Improvement Projects (Enterprise Funds) to Table 5 Enterprises, Fee and Other Dedicated Sources.

*(Note: New Table 5 attached; Project identified on page 3)*

Chairman Garrity asked the CIP staff to explain letter B.

Mr. Sam Maranto, Planning Department, stated that represents a request from the Water Works for the capital improvements during the year to be funded with Enterprise funds.

Chairman Garrity stated but it was an add-on, right? It was not in the CIP budget that the Mayor presented.

Ms. Pamela Goucher, Interim Planning Director, stated that’s correct.

Alderman O’Neil asked why wasn’t it in there?

Mr. Maranto responded it was omission by staff.

Alderman O'Neil stated I didn't hear the answer.

Ms. Goucher stated it was an omission. We have been juggling. Several staff members have been doing a couple of different jobs and I think in that process it was overlooked.

Alderman O'Neil moved to approve this request. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

***C. Request of \$100,000 for Hallsville School roof based on April 2007 actions of the Board (communication enclosed)***

Recommendation of staff to add bond project:  
#810409 Hallsville School Roof-\$100,000

Alderman Shea moved to approve this item. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Garrity asked do we have a funding source? Technically we have not made any changes to the CIP budget yet.

Alderman Lopez asked is that item C?

Chairman Garrity responded correct.

Alderman Lopez stated that would be additional bonds.

Chairman Garrity asked so can we bring that up at the end?

Alderman Lopez responded you can pass it but we have some bond resolutions. The numbers...that's where we are going to have to recess and to make sure the City Clerk has the correct numbers.

Mr. Matthew Normand, Deputy City Clerk, stated we would add a bond project on that one.

Alderman Lopez stated that's correct.

Chairman Garrity stated Alderman Lopez, I would assume you have recommendations for items C, D, and E.

Alderman Lopez stated yes.

Chairman Garrity stated well then, why don't you come forward with you recommendations. Now, I guess, would be the appropriate time.

Alderman Lopez asked item E was the Health Department, right?

Chairman Garrity responded no, that was Fire Department.

Alderman Lopez stated so we are down to F.

Alderman Gatsas stated I have a question going back to Hallsville Elementary. I guess the total project was \$641,000.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated correct.

Alderman Gatsas asked or \$610,000? What is the number?

Alderman Shea stated I think Mr. Clougherty has something over there.

Mr. Tim Clougherty, Facilities Division, stated I believe the total funding for that project was right about \$610,000. Our contract was actually executed in the amount of \$541,000. We have had change orders to date of roughly \$60,000.

Alderman Gatsas asked so we are at a total of \$600,000?

Mr. Clougherty responded yes.

Alderman Gatsas stated I am looking at the minutes of the meeting. We had \$369,998 available from the Norte Dame Bridge settlement. Is that correct? And then we had another \$120,000 and we're recommending approval of the \$369,998. I am just looking at situations. How do we alleviate something? I am not somebody from the business community that says we throw \$600,000 at something and we know that within three of four years that if that end of the City grows any more we are going to have to put a fire station in and that's \$3.6 million and it's probably going to be more if we look at it then. I would say to you that we should be looking at that today, putting \$1.8 million in the 2010 budget and putting \$1.8 million in 2011 and not do these renovations today because those are plans that we should be doing. The police station needs some sort of area that they can place themselves in. You need more space there and there is going to be growth at that end of the City. As soon as that bridge comes across, that area is going to boom. I don't know if there is a hotel but there is a pharmacy going up.

You have got zoning that was changed down there that we as a Board changed to multi-family. So you know as soon as that goes in and that project goes you are going to find a lot more apartment buildings down there. I look at this and say why aren't we planning? Because that's not going to be more than one or two years away. You are going to be before this Board saying, we can't do with what we have; we have got to move.

Mr. James Burkush, Fire Chief, stated this Board sets the policy of...I'm only going forward with what I am being directed to do.

Alderman Gatsas stated I understand Chief, and all I am saying is if you came in a year from now and said we have a real problem, how do we accommodate it? This Board is going to have to make that accommodation.

Alderman O'Neil stated as I said earlier, I think part of the strategic planning that both Police and Fire are going to start...regarding Fire they are going to have to look at some short term issues. Short term to me could be five to seven years. I think for us to believe that in the next five years we are going to find a piece of land, fund the money to purchase it and then fund the money to construct a new fire station...I think it is highly unlikely right now. So I think we need to let this process move forward with the Fire Department doing their strategic plan as we have directed them to do. I think there are going to be short term recommendations in that plan and long term recommendations in that plan and I think until we get that back...we could be here all night debating this thing. I think it may be in the best interest in the short term to renovate that station. Again, I am saying short term could be five to seven years. The Chief said ten years. My recommendation is there is a spot with funding in it if the decision is made to move forward with the renovation of the fire station. Alderman Lopez confirmed the number; it was either \$800,000 or a million.

Alderman Lopez stated I believe it's a million. If we take \$1.6 million out of bonding and we have to give it a number, maybe CIP can help us with that. We have the four numbers in CIP. Should we use one number and call it something else?

Chairman Garrity stated well, the \$1.4 is currently \$600,000 with the new estimates.

Alderman Lopez stated if you want to use that. Alderman O'Neil, you had a strategic plan for Police and Fire, is that correct?

Alderman O'Neil responded I think we have to put them together. My guess is we are going to move on station 9 before we do anything with the police station. That is just a guess here tonight. I think we put it in one account and then the Board makes a decision where we move forward. It's plain and simple.

Chairman Garrity asked so you recommend we put the \$600,000 and the \$300,000 in one account?

Alderman Lopez responded 711909 Strategic Fire and Police, \$900,000.

Alderman Gatsas asked does that mean that nothing else is moving, like the recycling program?

Chairman Garrity stated no, we haven't got to that yet.

Alderman Gatsas stated well that's a million bucks. You don't have much more. You are taking \$1.6 million out. That was one of the ones that Alderman Lopez recommended. That totaled up to the \$2.6 million: 71130, which is \$450,000 for the recycling; 411809, which is the Building expansion feasibility study for Police which was \$300,000; the South Manchester Rail and Trail which was \$450,000 and \$1.4 million for Calef Road; That totals \$2.6 million. We need to pull \$1.6 out of there; that leaves one million. We just spent \$900,000.

Chairman Garrity stated Alderman Gatsas, you misunderstood.

Alderman Gatsas stated well, we put away \$900,000.

Chairman Garrity stated 711909 goes from \$1.4 million to \$600,000 and \$300,000 for 411809 into an account for \$900,000. Technically you saved \$800,000 out of the \$2.6 million already because it's not \$1.4 million anymore.

Alderman Gatsas stated well wait, the simple math is, if you are talking \$1.6 million out of the \$2.6 million you only have a million left to spend. That's pretty simple math. You just spent \$900,000: \$300,000 and \$600,000.

Alderman O'Neil stated we are not spending anything. It's kind of like a holding place for it.

Alderman Gatsas stated okay Alderman. Then we haven't spent it; we are just placing it in a different account. Instead of \$2.6 million we only have a million to put into that separate account.

Alderman O'Neil stated correct.

Alderman Gatsas stated and all other things are dead. So I don't believe that we should be looking at recycling. That needs a truck, where that's a cost to the City. That should be a part of this discussion because the four objects that Alderman Lopez put on the table were the recycling program, the \$1.4 million for the Fire Department, \$300,000 for the Police and another \$450,000 for trails.

Chairman Garrity stated Alderman Gatsas, on 711309 I would tend to agree with you. I mean, that requires us to buy a truck and that gentleman doesn't have a recycling facility yet.

Alderman Lopez explained the numbers that I gave...just forget all those numbers.

Chairman Garrity stated what you should have done, Alderman Lopez, was share what you were thinking with me first and this would have been a lot easier, but I called you yesterday and you said you were going to get your point across. You still haven't got it across yet.

Alderman Lopez stated let's make it simple. Let's not...there is no need for that. I gave you four accounts. Eliminate them. All of the bonding is gone in those four accounts. What the Chairman and Alderman O'Neil are saying is we want \$900,000 put in for bonding for strategic planning and facilities, Fire and Police into a number.

Alderman Gatsas stated and I would add then we should add Highway there because if somebody comes in with a recycling program, then it should be available for us to make that decision and not just eliminate it and add a million, put another \$100,000 in there.

Alderman Lopez stated instead of bonding any of those that I have mentioned we are only bonding a million dollars instead of \$2.6 million and that's for those facilities that I mentioned. If CIP wants to use the same number or give it another number so we don't get confused again, fine.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think the intent of what Alderman Lopez...by reducing \$1.6 in bonding, it was reducing out debt commitment. Correct?

Alderman Lopez stated that's correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated that's where you were trying to get with this whole thing. So we want a million dollars in an account for those projects.

Alderman Gatsas stated for those three: Highway for recycling, for Fire and for Police.

Alderman O'Neil stated correct.

Alderman Shea stated as far as priorities, with that one million I agree with Alderman Lopez that if we get recycling in we need something to do to pay for that particular truck or whatever they need. I think if I am going to approve this I am going to put that as a first priority because strategic planning is kind of half way there and half way not there now because obviously we strategically planned if we agreed tonight to put \$600,000 into a fire station that may or may not be around for the next...well, it will be for the next ten years so we have already made that part of the strategic plan. I would say the first priority, Mr. Chairman, would be to put that, as far as the priority.

Alderman M. Roy stated the recycling program is one of the few initiatives that has come out of City government in the past five years that actually has the opportunity of saving us money. I couldn't agree with Alderman Shea more that in order to save the money we first have to provide the single string toters which is part of that CIP line item. We also have a contractual agreement with our subcontractor that should they perform on their end of the bargain, we need to perform on our end of the bargain and that's where the refuse truck comes in. I would like to have it noted for the taxpayer that if we are going to take cutting City expenses seriously, getting rid of the \$8 million we pay Waste Management every year is one of the first places we can save money and it's only by choosing which barrel you throw your garbage in. It's not giving up any services; it's just which toter you drag to the curb and what truck picks it up. That's a priority.

Alderman O'Neil moved to eliminate the four projects identified totaling \$2.6 million and create a new project with a million dollars in it that can include Police and Fire facilities and Highway recycling. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. The motion carried, with Chairman Garrity being duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman O'Neil stated in the cash appropriation, if you look at a project Alderman Smith has brought up, he has a concern regarding mosquito surveillance and the lack of funding. I believe we don't necessarily need to get Mr. Soucy up here but it's my understanding that there are no state funds available. It would be wise for us to have at least \$10,000 for mosquito feeding whether it's Wolfe Park, Derryfield Park, Start Park, or wherever. There would at least be some money available to the Public Health Director. In a discussion yesterday with the Fire Chief...if you look at 411409 Fire Department Deliberator replacement there was

a request of \$66,000. Based on some recent bids that they are aware of, the \$56,000 may be an appropriate number and then that balance of \$10,000 could be put to a... I think somewhere Sam referenced a project number for the mosquito surveillance. I thought I remember reading that somewhere about the Health Department for mosquito surveillance.

Alderman O' Neil moved to reduce the defibrillator replacement number to \$56,000 and take the balance of \$10,000 and create a new project for mosquito surveillance for the Health Department. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Gatsas stated sometimes you need to look at these at times to refresh your memory on things.

Alderman Garrity asked are you speaking to me?

Alderman Gatsas stated no, no. I don't mean you. I mean me, to refresh my memory because I know that there was conversation that we were cutting Police \$300,000 out of their budget. I just happened to look at a line here and it says MHRA Community Policing that they receive \$90,000 for wages so we really only cut them \$210,000 because there is another \$90,000 in this budget in CIP and I bet you if I look through we might have even given them an increase in wages. So there is no cut as far as I see right now with the Police budget because there is another \$90,000 and probably there are some more funds in here. There is another \$150,000 that I see. So probably that's \$240,000 just on one page. I don't know how much deeper I should go. Your Honor, I know you made the comment last night that that's just \$240,000 more in their wage line because the funds are coming from somewhere else.

Chairman Garrity stated Alderman Gatsas, let's get through this CIP process.

Alderman Gatsas stated absolutely. That's part of CIP; it's in there.

Alderman Shea stated I have some communication that we have reviewed. It is part of G...and this has to do with drainage improvements. I am hoping that the Highway Department will remember Ward 7. We have that FEMA 75%, Kevin, and 25% as it were. Then there is Ruth Avenue, and we have people having drainage problems over at Prouts Park area, so I am hoping that that will be looked at because Ward 7 has a lot of drainage problems and these are not wants; they're needs. I appreciate that.

**D. Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus  
Needs total of \$986,125 (\$788,900. federal, \$197,225 bond)**

Recommendation is to add \$67,225 to bond project #411709 for total bonding of \$197,225 with this local share contingent upon receipt of Federal grant; and add \$788,900 to Table 1 – Federal, State grants

Chairman Garrity asked you are currently bonded at what?

Mr. Burkush replied the federal grant is a maximum of I believe a million dollars and that's our portion of the grant.

Chairman Garrity asked so this is a grant for fiscal year 2009?

Mr. Burkush responded that's correct. It starts October of the federal fiscal year and through next September is when we can get the grant, the possibility of getting the grant.

Chairman Garrity asked you haven't been given the grant yet, right?

Mr. Burkush stated that's correct. We don't know if we are going to get the grant. They give the grants out in rounds. Every two weeks the federal government awards a grant. We have no idea whether we will get that grant. What changed was the we thought we could upgrade our breathing apparatus but NFPA and NIOSH say our apparatus is too old, so we are going for a grant to replace all the breathing apparatus.

Alderman O'Neil stated my understanding with the Chief...I think in the Mayor's CIP the Mayor had put some money in to upgrade the breathing apparatus but I think since that time, there has been some national standard information that comes out that says you can't replace it. That's their life pod, the breathing apparatus. We can't mess around or play around with that. I think we need to fund it. That has changed since the Mayor presented his budget. That's my understanding. It can't be upgraded anymore under the federal standards. It has to be replaced.

Chairman Garrity asked so Chief, when you put in for the grant you have to have a commitment from the City for that portion?

Mr. Burkush responded well, they award the grant, that's correct.

Chairman Garrity stated it's October when they award it, right?

Mr. Burkush stated it begins in a cycle of October and it goes through the next federal fiscal year.

Alderman O'Neil moved to approve the request for funding of breathing apparatus.

Alderman Gatsas asked Chief, if I understand you correctly, you are looking for \$67,000 in additional funds?

Mr. Burkush responded that's correct.

Alderman Gatsas asked and those can be bonded?

Mr. Burkush responded that's correct.

Alderman Gatsas stated I would make a motion for reconsideration on Alderman O'Neil's prior motion of a million dollars going into the bonding of the Fire, Recycling and Police and put \$930,000 in that account and \$70,000 additional bonding in this account so he gets his breathing apparatus if that would be a friendly amendment to where Alderman O'Neil was.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am fine with that. I thought this was taken care of in the budget that was presented last night so I guess I am wrong on the bonding side. I guess it wasn't included.

Mr. Maranto stated it might be consideration for different terms or life of the bonds. The \$900,000 will probably be longer than what we would bond the equipment for. I am not sure. I would have to defer to Mr. Sanders on that. We already have a bond for \$130,000. We would just suggest you increase that to the \$197,000 without amending the other previous bond authorization.

Alderman O'Neil moved to accept the recommendation to add \$67,225 to bond project #411709 for total bonding of \$197,225 with this local share contingent upon receipt of a federal grant. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

**E. Report from Fire Department regarding fire stations projects as requested by committee at last meeting enclosed.**

**F. Health Department Federal primary care for homeless grant.**  
Recommendation is to add \$198,194 under #213409 – Primary Care for the Homeless to Table 1 – Federal, State grants.

Alderman Smith asked the City's share is \$30,000?

Mr. Maranto responded the grant is for \$198,194. I am not sure we can identify the City's share here.

Mr. Tim Soucy, Public Health Director, stated Aldermen, there is no City share with this grant. I just want to clarify that this is a state grant, not a federal grant. This is additional money coming in from the Department of Health and Human Services that will help fund the healthcare for the homeless program.

Alderman Smith stated okay, it's a state grant, not a federal grant.

Mr. Soucy stated that was a mistake.

Alderman O'Neil moved to approve the recommendation. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

**G. Other communications not previously acted upon**

a) Communication from Alderman Lopez requesting discussion of various bond programs including Police, Fire, Parks and Highway projects.

b) Communication from Aldermen Shea regarding requests for various drainage improvements projects.

c) Communication from Alderman Smith requesting the mosquito surveillance activities (arbor viral surveillance) be discussed and considered for \$10,000 in funding *potential project #213509 cash project – may require removal or decreasing of another cash project to fund depending on action taken on operating budget.*

Alderman DeVries stated at the full meeting earlier I referred an item to CIP. It was item O on the consent agenda looking to fund a piece that was presented but not part of the CIP budget which would be for Child Health Services for \$17,000. They provide health services to the poorest of our City's residents' children.

Chairman Garrity asked does the CIP staff have a recommendation?

Alderman DeVries stated I believe it would be eligible for CDBG, and I'm wondering if there is additional capacity in CDBG.

Mr. Maranto stated actually we don't have capacity in CDBG. It would have to come out of cash. We actually took several projects formerly funded with cash and we put them in the CDBG. We are at our maximum allowance that we can spend unless we take out another project.

Alderman DeVries stated we might consider...I know there is a capital campaign in there, a \$250,000 loan.

Mr. Maranto stated Alderman, those funds are considered public services and are treated differently by HUD than capital campaign funds. We are at our maximum, which is 15% of our entitlement grant. This is down about 3% in the last year so actually we have more requests and fewer funds. It would have to come out of cash if you are so inclined to fund that.

Alderman DeVries stated I heard you say or other projects.

Mr. Maranto stated or we do some other projects, correct.

Alderman DeVries stated so other projects, I guess I am looking for a recommendation. Are they cash projects? What type of projects am I looking at?

Mr. Maranto responded if you wanted to use CDBG money you would have to identify a CDBG project recommended for funding now and reduce that.

Alderman O'Neil stated it's been a long night in CIP. Can we refer this to our next meeting? I don't think its going to be... CIP generally has the ability throughout the year to identify all possible funds.

Alderman DeVries stated Alderman, the last time that that was done for an item that I brought forward, it was not funded throughout the year so I would really like the consideration of the Board before we pass the CIP budget. If you want to defer it and we don't pass the CIP budget immediately, that's fine but I would ask before we pass the CIP budget that we figure out the \$17,000, transfer it from another project.

Alderman Gatsas stated we are talking \$17,000. I don't think the end of the world is coming in the Health Department if we give them a directive to say go do the project and if he is short at the end of the year...

Alderman O'Neil interjected it's not the Health Department.

Alderman DeVries stated it's Child Health Services.

Alderman Gatsas stated I am sure for \$17,000 there is enough.

Alderman DeVries stated I have gone through and looked at some other projects that you might consider. There is project 212809 funded at \$48,000 on page three. You might consider \$10,000 out of that. These are other CDBG. And 211809, maybe \$2,000 there. 211909, maybe \$3,000 there and we need \$2,000 more. Maybe 211109, the last \$2,000 there.

Alderman Gatsas asked what were the numbers? I would think we would have a much different discussion instead of plucking numbers, you know...\$2,000 from this one; \$2,000 from that one. I would assume that some people are looking at what they were going to get and I guess let me ask for the numbers again. What are the numbers again please?

Alderman DeVries stated it's only my suggestion but I thought we might look at 212809 on page three, CDBG.

Alderman Gatsas stated so we are going to take money out of an account that is for refugees and immigrants into the City. I think we should put some justice into how we do this. We certainly put initiatives into a \$140,000. We ought to do the same for \$17,000 to find out if we can find a place for it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I believe the organization Alderman DeVries is referencing is now headed by Mr. Rusczek, our former Health Director. I am sure this Committee as well as the Board will do everything in their power to identify \$17,000. We are not going to find it tonight. I think we are all starting to get a little tired of hanging out with each other as much as we have been. I commit to Alderman DeVries. I will do everything in my power to identify \$17,000. We will spend another hour trying to do this.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee