



# MINUTES

## Public Works & Utilities Advisory Committee

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May 16, 2018

### Attendance:

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**Committee Members:**

Mike Oakley –Vice Chair, *At-Large*  
Zane Green, *Engineer*  
Dale Filholm, *Supplier*  
Nate Wilson, *At-Large*  
Ken McKillop, *Contractor*

**Absent:** Travis Bourne –Chair, *Contractor*  
Tom Sylte, *At-Large*

**City Staff:**

Heath VonEye, *Development Services Director*  
Steven Peterson, *Capital Projects Coordinator*  
Kent Clark, *Streets Manager*  
Diane Monahan, *Water Services Manager*  
Luke Antonich, *Senior Civil Engineer*  
Greg Bowman, *Lead Water Systems Operator*  
Seth Morris, *Lead Water Systems Operator*  
Jill McCarty, *Administrative Support*

**Meeting Quorum:** Yes

### I. Call to Order:

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Meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. by Mike Oakley, Vice-Chair.

### II. Approval of Minutes:

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Ken McKillop made a motion to approve the minutes and Zane Green seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### III. Personal Appearances:

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Luke Antonich from the Engineering Division, and Diane Monahan, Greg Bowman and Seth Morris from the Utilities Department were in attendance for the meeting.

### IV. Old Business:

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- **Project Update**

Heath gave updates on city projects that will be taking place over the summer including the 2018 Watermain Replacement project, Gurley Overpass Deck Rehabilitation, Interstate Industrial Park LID, and Pavement Management System projects. Kent said over 1,900 people dropped off items at the city's Drive and Drop Community Cleanup event.

### V. New Business:

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- **Topics for 2018**

- Standard Construction Specifications - Thrust Blocks

Heath said the city's Water Division had concerns with how some thrust blocks had been installed, and access has been limited to some on water lines due to the amount and placement of concrete being used during their installation. Seth Morris said keeping the bolts unobstructed from concrete would help, and he was aware of other cities using forms to keep concrete off.

Ken asked about using precast thrust blocks, as he hadn't had problems using them in the past, however in using them the loadbearing on virgin soil couldn't be ensured, he said. Seth said he would like a form used that kept the thrust block clean at the fitting.

Seth thought adding the wording "bolts shall be accessible" to the Standard Construction Specifications would add clarity for how thrust blocks were to be used on projects. Heath thought the specifications being followed more strictly as written could address the concerns.

Dale thought his company could make some forms to test out, and see how they work. Ken thought a couple of different size ranges for the forms would be good.

Nate inquired if getting away from using thrust blocks would work. Seth and Ken thought with new construction projects that might be possible.

Diane asked if other communities were using preform thrust blocks, and Ken said Idaho and Rapid City do not use thrust blocks, however there are other communities that swear by them, and it depended on the soils that were there and what the community wanted to use.

Heath said the wording in the specifications eludes to the use of a form, but does not specify it, and the city standard is a thrust block must be used. He thought one step in the right direction would be looking at meeting criteria set forth in what is already in the specifications, and it could be entertained in the future to remove the requirement for new installations. Heath said for the time being he would like to ensure what is being placed is what is in the specifications, and the topic can be revisited in the fall when the committee reconvenes. Also, some pre-made forms can be tried in upcoming projects as well.

#### Chlorination Tablets

Diane said there was a recent incident on a city project with tablets that continued to dissolve 10 days out. She said they had seen it on several projects in the past few years and inquired if the manufacturer of the tablets had changed the binding or if the tablets being used currently changed formula from what was used in the past.

Heath asked if the tablets in the specifications are the same that are being used. Ken said on the project mentioned the only item used different was Peramtex tablet adhesive was not used, and the Dow Corning adhesive was.

Ken said it would be good to get the spec sheet on the product that was used, and his company will be using the adhesive in different projects and can report back the findings on those using the same adhesive and tablets.

Heath wanted to revisit this topic after summer projects have played out, and see if anything new had been found out in the process.

## **VI. Other Business:**

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Mike said a contractor talked to him about the possibility of not holding retainage on stored materials.

Ken said the retainage could turn into an approximately 15% loss for contractors, with the 10% retainage fee and another possible 5% loss with interest payments. It was decided by the committee to add this topic to the agenda for future discussion.

Next Meeting September 19, 2018.

## **VII. Adjournment:**

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Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.