

INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY, TRANSPORTATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY (ITTS)
COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
7:00 PM

MINUTES

Committee: Chairman, Mr. Weiss, Ms. Burckley, Mr. Carminito, and Ms. Webb
Staff: Mr. Krack, Mr. Watson, and Ms. Getzfread

I. Call to Order at 7:00 pm

II. Public Participation

David Lutzker, resident. He asked about adding a second round of Public Participation at the end of the meeting so the public doesn't have to wait to the next meeting to respond to items discussed. He shared his support of the EV Stations in the Borough and he asked if the Borough would consider a fee on residents who don't take measures to control their storm water and discharge into the street.

III. Committee Member Updates/Discussions - None

IV. New Business

V. Infrastructure Updates

A. Stormwater Management

Mr. Krack reported that RVE is working on the study authorized by Council and he expects it will be around six months for the data collection and analysis to be complete.

B. The Phoenix Wheel

Mr. Krack explained the grant received for the project and the next steps for the Schuylkill River Heritage Center and the need for their fund-raising efforts to begin.

C. The Square at Main and Bridge

Mr. Krack explained the submission of the CRP Grant to the County for the project and shared some of the conceptual renderings Staff received from the Borough Engineer.

Mr. Carminito expressed his support of the project and his belief the square will bring much needed open space to the downtown and he likes the way the project is heading.

Ms. Burckley stated she loves the idea especially adding more green space in the Borough.

Mr. Weiss commented he likes the concept and asked Staff along with the committee and public opinion to help cultivate a list of what goals the space is looking to accomplish.

Mr. Krack explained Staff is aware this project will affect parking in the downtown. However, Staff continues to work toward replacing parking. The lot at 177 Church Street will be open soon and more information is being pushed out through social media to

inform residents, businesses and visitors on the locations of available parking adjacent to the downtown.

Ms. Burckley likes the idea of set goals and engaging the public on what they would like to see in the town square.

Ms. Webb expressed her concerns on the loss of handicapped spaces in the downtown.

Ms. Getzfread spoke about the infrastructure in the square including vending areas and the maintenance of the square.

Mr. Weiss stated he likes the tiered seating concept for the square.

Mr. Carminito stated he feels Staff and Council should pursue giving up the parking at Main and Bridge and move forward with the Square at Main and Bridge concept.

VI. Transportation Updates

A. Engineering Reports – Next one will be in July of 2023.

B. Starr and Nutt Intersection

Mr. Krack stated the Notice to Proceed will be issued next week and construction will begin in June or July of this year.

C. Bridge and Starr Street

Mr. Krack stated Staff submitted a grant to the County for \$950,000 for the project.

Ms. Getzfread stated she expects we would hear about the any grant awards in the fall time frame.

D. Paradise and Hall Street

Mr. Krack explained the Paradise Paving project will be going out to bid and Staff is still engaged with the developers of Paradise Village on their portion of Hall Street.

E. Mowere Road

Mr. Krack reported we submitted a grant application for Mowere Road. Should that be awarded there is a plan in place to get the much-needed improvement work on Mowere completed, by end of year.

F. North Street – Nothing to Report

G. French Creek Trail

Ms. Getzfread stated a DCNR grant was submitted for the project and the scope of work and costs have increased to repair the erosion on the bank of the French Creek.

Mr. Carminito asked about the responsibilities of repairs to the creeks bed when erosion occurs along the banks.

Mr. Krack explained how the responsibilities are determined and explained why the Borough is looking to fund the repairs along the French Creek Trail.

H. Train Station

Mr. Krack explained that SRPRA submitted a grant to fund the Amtrak Train Line from Philadelphia to Reading. He stated awards should be announced around July of this year.

VII. Sustainability Updates

A. PXVNEO

Mr. Watson provided an update on the project and the last items that need to be addressed to begin the processing of Biosolids at PXVNEO.

B. EV Charging Stations

Ms. Getzfread reported Mr. Krack, Ms. Logan and she are submitting information to DVRPC to take part in CFI funding for additional stations in the Borough. This would increase the number in the Borough from 42 to 58 EV Stations.

C. Municipal Building Solar Proposal

Mr. Krack reported the Borough Engineer is designing and engineering the project now and he expects to have the design and costs in the next few weeks.

VIII. Technology Updates

A. Website

Ms. Getzfread stated the redesign is moving along and should be launched soon.

B. Council Microphones

Mr. Krack acknowledged the microphones in Council Chambers are failing and Staff is working with Delco Solutions for pricing on a new system. He stated a few years ago the Borough joined a class action lawsuit against Monsanto for their Round-Up product and on April 17th the Borough received the payment of \$17,000 from it. He stated this money can be earmarked to replace the failing microphone system in Council Chambers.

IX. Public Participation

David Lutzker, resident. He expressed his support of the Square at Main and Bridge. He asked the Borough to include the public in the planning of the square, he suggested a parking solution including shuttles from parking farther out to the downtown and he asked the project at Main and Bridge to be mindful of not covering the Mural in the lot.

X. Adjournment at 8:02pm by Ms. Burckley.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm