City of Cedar Rapids
Flood Control System Committee
Council Chambers– City Hall
MINUTES
January 17, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Present:  Committee Council members:  Tyler Olson (Chair) and Marty Hoeger
City Staff:  Rob Davis, Jen Winter, Sandi Fowler, Nate Kampman, Dave Wallace, Justin Holland, Susan Heath

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Council member Olson.

Approval of Meeting Minutes (October 2, 2018)
Approval of the Meeting Minutes for October 2, 2018 was tabled until next meeting.

2019 Flood Control System Committee Meeting Calendar
The 2019 Flood Control System Committee Meeting Calendar was discussed.  Rob Davis advised prior meetings were generally held the third Thursday of the month on a quarterly basis (January, April, July and October at 11:00 a.m.). Will add extra meetings when necessary.

Informational Items
Rob Davis stated that from April 2014 through December 2018, the City has spent $68.4 million on the flood control system. Two-thirds of expenses is Iowa Mitigation Flood program funds of $44.7 million. Of this Iowa Flood Mitigation program expenditures, about 40% were in NewBo, followed by Time Check. The voluntary acquisition program has worked well. Cargill south will start to see expenditures as that is one of the earlier segments to be built by the Army Corp of Engineers.

On the revenue side, the City has received $38.88 million from the state to date in the Iowa Flood Mitigation program. The City spends ahead of actual revenues by up to one year’s worth of revenues, so as not to get shorted any funds. This is because the Iowa Flood Mitigation Program is a use it or lose it program, and funds must be expended no later than the year in which they are generated, or otherwise they are forfeited. Currently, the project has incurred about ½ a year expenses ahead (i.e. $6 million), to make sure there are enough expenses to submit.

The City did not generate enough sales tax to reach its maximum $13.14 million cap for revenue in FY 2018. The final fiscal numbers are available approximately 6 months after the end of the fiscal year and FY18 actual sales tax revenues were $10.1 million. This trend could be concern going forward for Cedar Rapids and other communities, as projects may have to be deferred. The maximum cap for FY2019 revenue is $15 million for Cedar Rapids, so significant growth above $10.1 million sales tax increment above will be necessary to reach the maximum cap.

A list of all projects the city submitted for grant applications was reviewed. We are running at over a 50% success rates on submitted grants. On November 3, 2017 a FEMA application for unfunded hazard mitigation construction program was submitted to Iowa Homeland Security to get first in line when federal funding became available. FEMA has recently funded this program and staff updated the application with the state yesterday as an $862,000 request for five downtown storm gate structures. The State said they received five applications from around the state for this
nation-wide program. The City’s project has a reasonable chance for competitive approval as it has a 4.0 benefit-cost ratio. Also, since the last Committee meeting, we did get that IDOT grant approved for Quaker Oats.

FCS Coordination with US Army Corp of Engineers
First presentation showed coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers on the various projects. The City is leading the design in the Downtown area, and the US Army Corps is leading the design effort on the bookends in NewBo/Cargill and upstream of Quaker Oats. There is some overlap in areas. For example, the city will take the lead on design of Shaver Road raising and the US Army Corps will design the pump station downtown. After design, the majority of the construction will be contracted by the US Army Corps, including the 16th Avenue gate closure designed by the City.

Other items in construction......The Quaker Oats floodwall is proceeding well. The newest construction start is the Czech Village levee construction ($4.7 million) contract which was awarded in November.

Other items in design......roadway closure gate for 3rd Avenue downtown, storm sewer shut-off valves on both east and west sides of the river. Overall, the east side system has accelerated with the US Army Corps, and that has not affected the schedule for the west side construction. The budget also kicks off the 8th Avenue Bridge design.

Dept. of the Army Time and Motion Study
The City hired the Dept of the Army, Engineering Research Development Center in Vicksburg, MS in 2017 to validate how the erection of the moving parts of the flood control system. A draft report has been received that shows that there is a 90% chance the entire system can be erected in 47 hours. This builds in time for poor weather, equipment malfunctions, staff training, etc. Overall, this report is showing the Flood Control System is viable. The original master plan had 20% removables and moving parts and currently it sits at 15%. Staff will continue to work on simplifying the system, while improving the community experience, which we think will yield some additional reductions in removable flood walls to about 12.5%.

Construction Updates
- Quaker Oats wall is 2,100 feet, and about 10% complete.
- Boulder Contracting is under contract for the Sinclair Monuments, which should begin in Spring 2019.
- The Ellis Landings condominium Flood Structure is a private contract. The City has issued permits and the flood wall portion is expected to be complete in summer 2019.
- The Czech Village levee (south of 16th Avenue SW) is scheduled to be complete in fall 2019, except for seeding.

FCS Recommended Master Plan Updates
There are three homes in the area of the proposed detention pond between Bowling Street SW and 22nd Street SW. All three homes sold after January 2016 before the adjacent detention basin was added to the FCS Master Plan. Unrelated to the FCS project, Flood insurance is nearly half of the property owner’s mortgage payment. The properties are viable as they stand, because their low openings are approximately 2 feet above the top of the detention basin, though the detention basin could affect groundwater elevations. Voluntary acquisition offers are recommended, because of the change to the master plan and neighborhood not understood at the time of the property purchases. Affected property owners were polled and they are amenable to an offer. Staff is recommending amending Chapter VI of the FCS Master Plan to accommodate voluntary acquisition of the three closest (both horizontally and vertically) to the detention basin, and request City Council approve the change to the
Master Plan. Tyler Olson made a motion to approve the recommendation to amend Chapter VI of the FCS Master Plan; Marty Hoeger seconded. Passed.

8th Avenue Bridge
The City added in 2016 to the Master Plan to approve raising of the 8th Avenue Bridge, which was approved by the state of Iowa. The consultant selection process was in 2018. T Y Lin International was selected. That contract approval will be on the next Council agenda. We have four Cedar Rapids sub-consultants – Shoemaker & Haaland, Stanley Consultant, Terracon Consultants and Confluence.

The main focus of the contract is the 8th Avenue Bridge and associated riverfront improvements, such as gathering space development, intersection geometry, flood control integration, trail integration and connectivity, and adjacent property coordination. The contract is for 30% design, due in 12 months. The fee is $3,287,086. Approval of this contract will be on an upcoming City Council meeting agenda.

No public comment.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully,

Susan H. Heath
Administrative Assistant II
Public Works

Any discussion, feedback, or recommendation by Committee member(s) should not be construed or understood to be an action or decision by or for the Cedar Rapids City Council. Further, any recommendation(s) the Committee may make to the City Council is based on information possessed by the Committee at that point in time.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact the City Manager’s Office at (319) 286-5080 or email a.wing@cedar-rapids.org as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event.