



# SHAKER HEIGHTS

## SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

THURSDAY May 4, 2023

8:00 AM

VIA ZOOM MEETING

Members Present: Tres Roeder, Council Chairperson  
Earl Williams, Council Member  
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member  
Carmella Williams, Council Member  
Patricia Speese, Director Public Works  
Kim Harris, Citizen Member  
Sara Schiavoni, Citizen Member  
James Sammon, Citizen Member

Others Present: Jeri Chaikin, CAO  
Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police  
William Gruber, Director of Law  
Megan Sakacs, Recording Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tres Roeder at 8:00 am.

### **APPROVAL OF APRIL 6, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Council Chair Roeder asked for a motion to approve the April 6, 2023 Safety and Public Works minutes. A motion was made by Citizen Member Jonathan Hren, and seconded by Council Member Earl Williams. The motion carried.

### **REQUEST TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TRANSMAP FOR 2023**

#### **STREET CONDITION ASSESMENT**

##### **Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works**

Director Speese stated that the city would like to change the way the roads are evaluated to the industry standard using the Pavement Condition Rating system and is requesting to enter into contract with Transmap for services related to Street Condition Rating in the amount of \$34,033 so the city can proceed with much needed evaluation.

Director Speese explained that historically, Public Works staff would drive streets annually and revise the condition rating depending on the acceleration of deterioration or if a street was recently resurfaced. While this approach was practical, the methodology of the evaluation and data collected was rudimentary considering the value of capital funds used for street resurfacing each year.

There is approximately 220 lane miles in Shaker Heights. As stated in the RFP, the selected consultant will be responsible for evaluating 145 lane miles that primarily consists of local roads. Minor arterial, principal arterial and major collectors are evaluated by the Northeast Ohio

Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and will not be evaluated as part of this project, which are Fairhill Road, Coventry Road, Fairmount Blvd, Shaker Blvd, South Woodland Road, Van Aken Blvd, Chagrin Blvd, Lee Road, Warrensville Center Road, and Green Road.

To gain a better understanding of our street infrastructure, Public Works distributed Request for Proposals to five consultants that have the expertise in conducting street assessments utilizing Pavement Condition Rating (PCR). This system of evaluation is consistent with how ODOT, Cuyahoga County and other municipalities rate their road infrastructure.

The overall approach to a PCR investigation is to review a variety of distresses within the pavement. The distresses include, but are not limited to, raveling, patching, potholes, settlements and cracking.

Director Speese mentioned that a total of three (3) proposals were received. Transmap submitted an impressive proposal. Unlike the other consultants that provide a variety of civil engineering services, Transmap solely performs street condition assessments. They have performed this service for a multitude of cities and municipalities throughout Ohio and the country. The equipment used for data collection captures 100% of distresses within the pavement via a vehicle tracking system and different technology platforms. This data is then imported into a web based GIS system that depicts the PCR rating on any given road segment within the city.

Tres Roeder opened floor up for questions. Citizen Member Kim Harris asked if this company has previously done work in other surrounding cities. Director Speese did confirm that they have done work at other surrounding local cities, as well as in the other Columbus area. CAO Chaikin wanted to make mention that 1/3 of the capital budget is spent on road improvement analysis on where and what roads are high priorities, she also stated she feels having this rating system is well worth it for the cost and it would be very helpful having an outside professional opinion to help assessment and have actual data of which streets are in need of repairs. Citizen Member Jonathan Hren asked if this firm will be using the local PCR recommendations set by the State of Ohio, Director Speese confirmed that they will be. Citizen Member Sara Schiavoni asked if we would own the data and will the city always be using this firm to rate the streets. Director Speese confirmed that we would own the data and it will help down the road when they access other streets, they would not have them access new resurfaced streets next time they rate the streets. Director Speese also stated that the PCR rating system will be the system that will be used going forward, but not necessary with this firm. Citizen Member James Sammon asked why this is being done by an outside firm, Director Speese explained that the Public Works don't have the personnel available for this type of job and even if they did it would be every bit of the cost of the contract from a professional company as the city would not have the technology but would rely on the previous method of individuals walking every street and rating them. Director Speese also mentioned that having this type of rating system will be beneficial when requesting outside funding for future projects.

A motion was made by Council Member Carmella Williams and it was seconded by Citizen Member James Sammon. The motion was carried.

## **FLOCK SAFETY CONTRACT EXTENSION AND DISCOUNT**

### **Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police**

Chief Hudson is requesting the City's authorization to renew, enter into and/or otherwise extend the original 1-year contract with FLOCK SAFETY.

Back in 2022, The Shaker Heights Police Department entered into a 1-year contract with FLOCK for the installation of six (6) Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras, which is now nearing expiration.

Chief Hudson stated that after reviewing the data collected from the FLOCK cameras already in place, it was learned that these cameras had not only assisted in locating and recovering several stolen vehicles, they also provide the department a real time tool to track crimes with mobility elements; as well as played a key role in locating a vehicle and suspect wanted in a homicide. The data also showed a need for an addition camera in the area of Shaker Boulevard (eastbound) at Coventry.

When the department made contact with FLOCK to express interest in renewing the current contract, we also inquired about the cost of adding one (1) additional camera. FLOCK offered a \$500.00 per camera discount, contingent upon extending the life of the current contract from one (1) year to five (5) years. The total cost of the contract for this period including the per camera discount of \$17,500.00 (\$500.00 discount x 7 cameras x 5 years) and the additional camera would be \$88,150.00, as opposed to \$97,500.00 without the per camera discount.

Tres Roeder opened floor up for questions. Council Member Earl Williams asked if there were other systems in place besides the FLOCK cameras used to prevent/solve crimes. Chief Hudson stated that yes there are other tools, FLOCK is only one tool in the department's toolbox, and eventually he would like to see the city have different camera systems throughout the city, especially apartment complexes and businesses. Citizen Member James Sammon asked if repairs and maintenance would be done by FLOCK and if there are penalties should we ever want to end the contract prior to the five (5) years. Law Director Gruber stated that he will have to go back and look at the previous contract, but believes that the contract can be terminated for cause should something arise. CAO Jeri Chaikin stated that FLOCK actually owns the cameras, the city just "rents" them, and so she believes FLOCK would be responsible for all maintenance and repairs of cameras. Citizen Member Jonathan Hren asked if FLOCK is compatible with other systems that surrounding municipalities are using. Chief Hudson stated that several municipalities across the state share this system. Citizen Member Jonathan Hren also asked if there has been any problem with FLOCK handling the maintenance over the last year. Chief Hudson stated that FLOCK has been very good at handling the maintenance of each camera. Council Member Carmella Williams asked if the cameras will be used in other ways other than scanning license plates, she is concerned because some may feel that they are being over surveillance. Chief Hudson explained that having other camera systems in place at apartment buildings along with FLOCK cameras in place is like having "an extra set of eyes" and residents can feel safe where they live. Citizen Member Sara Schiavoni asked if there was any data that can be shared to show the need for an additional camera in that area. Chief Hudson responded that he did not have access to the data at this time, but will certainly be willing to supply it at a

follow-up meeting. CAO Jeri Chaikin extended the invite to Citizen Member Sara Schiavoni to attend the upcoming finance committee meeting for follow up of her questions. Citizen Member Schiavoni noted she appreciated Chief Hudson's willingness to revise and resubmit his proposal following the upcoming finance. For the record, due to connectivity issues some audio of the recording was cut out.

Citizen Member James Sammon asked if there has been any discussion of getting more cities involved and having one (1) large contract in hopes to bring the cost down a little in the future. Chief Hudson stated that is something that has not been brought up before, but feels it is something that can be discussed with other jurisdictions.

A motion was made by Council Member Carmella Williams and it was seconded by Council Member Earl Williams. The motion was carried.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES-TO ADOPT LAW CHANGES TO ADMINISTRATIVE, CRIMINAL, AND TRAFFIC CODE SECTION**

**William M. Ondrey Gruber, Director of Law**

Law Director Gruber is seeking approval of proposed changes to the City's Codified Ordinances to adopt changes in State laws that are incorporated into the City's Administrative, Traffic and General Offenses Codes.

The City's Codified Ordinances, particularly in the General Offenses Code and the Traffic Code, incorporate portions of State law. Approximately once a year, when we republish the Codified Ordinances, our publisher provides us with the changes to State law made by the General Assembly over the past year or so that require changes to the corresponding City Ordinances in order to have the City's Ordinances remain consistent with and not in conflict with State law.

Director Gruber stated by amending the City's Ordinances to incorporate the State law changes, the City will be able to enforce these general offense and traffic laws in Municipal Court and the City will retain the fines, rather than the State. Director Gruber also mentioned that he is proposing to add City holidays into the administrative code.

Tres Roeder opened floor up for questions. Council Member Earl Williams asked what the City holidays are. Director Gruber stated that the City observes all the holidays the State does except the Day after Thanksgiving, which is observed by the City as a holiday but not by the State. The State and City are adding Juneteenth as a holiday. Council Member Carmella Williams asked for an explanation regarding disclosure of a firearm during a traffic stop. Director Gruber's understanding of this law is that the State changed the rules on the disclosure of a firearm to you don't have to state possession of a firearm in a vehicle or on a person as long as it is visible. Director Gruber did recommend following up with Police Chief Hudson for certainty on this topic and also clarified that although other state laws can be altered per city's choice, concealed weapon laws cannot be altered by any city.

A motion was made by Council Member Carmella Williams and it was seconded by Citizen Member James Sammon. The motion was carried.

Respectfully,

Tres Roeder /ms  
Tres Roeder, Council Chairperson  
Safety & Public Works Committee