



# SHAKER HEIGHTS

**SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021  
8:00 AM  
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

Members Present: Robert Zimmerman, Council Chairperson  
Sean Malone, Council Member  
Carmella Williams, Council Member  
Earl Williams, Council Member  
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member  
James Sammon, Citizen Member  
Patricia Speese, Director Public Works  
Jeffrey DeMuth, Chief of Police  
Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire

Others Present: David E. Weiss, Mayor  
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer  
Christian Maier, Assistant Director of Public Works  
William Gruber, Director of Law  
Marilyn Kertis, Recording Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Robert Zimmerman at 8:02 AM.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Council Chair Zimmerman asked if there were any questions, changes or additions to the February 5, 2021, Safety and Public Works Committee meeting minutes. There being none, a motion was made by Council Member Carmella Williams, it was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM THE SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS  
COMMITTEE TO AWARD THE 2021 STREET RESURFACING PROJECT TO  
RONYAK PAVING AT A COST OF \$1,421,976.40**

**Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works**

Director Speese indicated that any major work to be done for the Public Works Department always go out for competitive bids which was done this year. There were bids by 8 contractors with Chagrin Valley Paving being the lowest bidder for the 2021 Street Resurfacing Program. Although the charter states that the award should go to the lowest and best bidder, Director Speese elaborated on previous work done by Chagrin Valley Paving in 2015 and their work was fair at best and a logistical nightmare. It was only after Public Works contacted the Bonding Company and issued a Default of Contract letter that Chagrin Valley Paving responded to complaints by the department and finished the work.

Chagrin Valley Paving bid on another project in 2020. Although they were the lowest bidder, they did not receive the contract. At that time, they never reached out in any way to renew the relationship with the City of Shaker Heights for future projects to ensure that any future projects would be successful. Although it's not a contract requirement, Chagrin Valley Paving did not attend a pre-bid meeting for either the 2020 or 2021 Street Resurfacing Project. They did try to contact Director Speese by phone during this year's bid process, however, it is stated at every pre-bid meeting and in the minutes that representatives from the City will not speak privately to any bidder, as that would compromise the integrity of the public bidding process and a fair playing field. The Public Works Department wants to make sure there is transparency in the public bidding process. All questions need to be put in writing so that the question and answer can be shared with every potential bidder. Their absence at the pre-bid meetings indicated a lack of interest in the project details.

Director Speese is requesting support from the Safety and Public Works Committee to award the contract to Ronyak Paving for the amount of 1,421,976.40. They were the second lowest and best bid received. They have worked on multiple projects for the City of Shaker Heights (Shaker Blvd. Resurfacing in 2016, 2017, and 2020) along with additional work within the City as a sub-contractor for utility work. Their quality of work exceeds industry standards and the project managers are responsive and professional. Although the bid from Chagrin Valley Paving was \$59,150.58 lower than that of Ronyak Paving, the cost would likely have exceeded that of the 2<sup>nd</sup> bidder as they would likely have to hire more inspectors to oversee the project if Chagrin Valley was the awarded bidder.

Director Speese deferred to Christian Maier, the Assistant Director of Public Works to elaborate on the three (3) phases of the project as he is intimately more familiar with aspects of the project. Assistant Director Maier highlighted that the project is a very aggressive project with a lot of work to be completed in approximately 90 days. They don't want to have to "babysit" a contractor and had the work been awarded to Chagrin Valley Paving, it would likely take a toll on the Public Works Department. The work will be done in the 3 phases:

1. Phase one (1) is a 50/50 split with the County to include Coventry Road which is in very poor condition and well-traveled. This should take approximately 21 days to complete
2. Phase two (2) will include five (5) streets to include Chadbourne (Ashby to Clayton), Paxton (from Shaker to South Woodland), Albion (Onaway to City Limits), Sebor (Onaway to Southington) and Douglas (Shelburne to Cranlyn) which should take approximately 30 days.
3. Phase three (3) will include Berwyn (Ardmore to Grenway), Almar (Somerset to Belvoir), Sussex (Southerland to Lomond) and Scottsdale (Warrensville to Lynnfield).

Council Chair Zimmerman asked for a color coded map of the project which Director Speese indicated she will make sure that the committee receives a copy. He then opened the discussion for questions and also indicated that the contracting process was handled nicely and appreciates the hard work of all of the directors.

Council Member Earl Williams recalled the 1<sup>st</sup> Covid-19 Meeting held on March 14, 2020, and the discussion regarding Chagrin Valley Paving back then and how working with them could be threatening to the City. They didn't correct history and the city is also stressed with its current projects and do not have time to monitor Chagrin Valley Paving to make sure their work is done

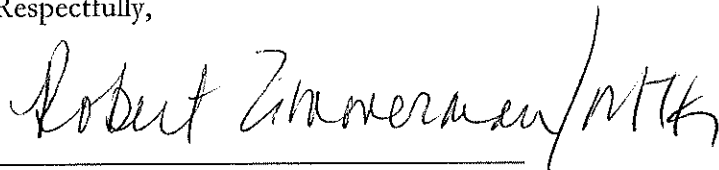
properly. He has no problem with ignoring the comments from Chagrin Valley Paving and awarding the contract to Ronyak Paving.

Citizen Member Hren agreed with Council Member Williams. He mentioned that he has also been involved with projects involving Chagrin Valley Paving and how they are not respected among other contractors. Chagrin Valley Paving is bidding on projects that are out of their normal capabilities such as bridge work and other projects that are unusual for them and questionable if they are able to handle the work; therefore, he concurs with Director Speese and her decision to award the contract to Ronyak Paving.

Council Chair Zimmerman asked if there were any more comments or questions. There being none, he asked for a motion to approve the grant request. A motion was made by Council Member Carmella Williams, it was seconded, and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 AM

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Zimmerman" followed by a stylized flourish or initials.

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Robert Zimmerman, Council Chairperson  
Safety and Public Works Committee